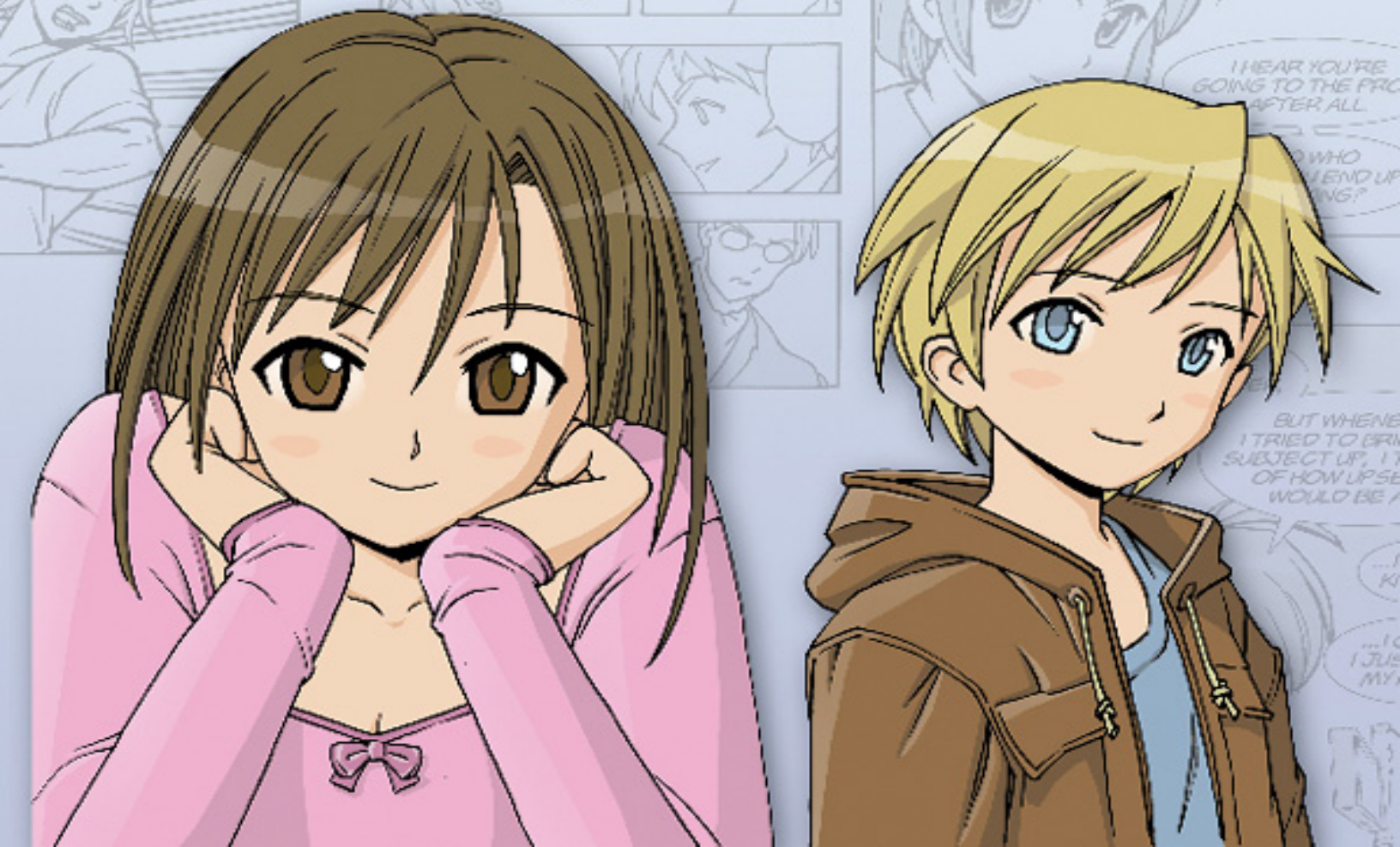
IMPACT

Mastering MANGA

How to Draw Manga Faces

Mark Crilley



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Ideas. Instruction. Inspiration.

What You Need

Many aspiring artists worry too much about art supplies. There almost seems to be the belief that buying the right stuff is the single most important key to creating great art, but that's like thinking you'll be able to swim as fast as Olympic gold medalists do by wearing the right swimsuit. It doesn't work that way.

What really matters is not the pencil but the brain of the person holding it. Experiment to find the size, styles and brands you like best. If it feels right to you, that's all that matters.

PAPER

I almost want to cry when I see that someone has put hours and hours of work into a drawing on a piece of loose-leaf notebook paper. Do yourself a favor and get a pad of smooth bristol. It's thick and sturdy, and can hold up to repeated erasing.

PENCILS

Pencils come down to personal preference. Perfect for me may be too hard or soft for you. I like a simple no. 2 pencil

like the sort we all grew up with, but there are pencils of all kinds of hardness and quality. Try some out to see what kind of marks they make. The softer the lead, the more it may smear.

PENS

Get a good permanent-ink pen at an art store, one that won’t fade or bleed over time. Don’t confine yourself to super-fine tips. Have a variety of pens with different tip widths for the various lines you need.

RULERS

Get yourself a nice, clear plastic ruler so that you can see the art as you make lines. A 15-inch (38cm) ruler is good for even some of the longest lines.

KNEADED ERASERS

These big soft erasers, available in art stores, are great for erasing huge areas without leaving tons of pink dust behind. However, they aren’t always precise, so feel free to use them in combination with a regular pencil eraser.

PENCIL SHARPENERS

I’ve come to prefer a simple hand-held disposable sharpener over an electric one. You’ll get the best use out of it while the blade is perfectly sharp.

Making the Manga Eye

PUTTING YOUR MATERIALS TO WORK

Let’s get started with a warm-up exercise. Here’s a step-by-step demonstration that will get you used to the process we’ll be using. Eyes are a great place to begin drawing as they are key to the characters, simple yet even if you’ve never drawn before.

Materials

bristol board
clear plastic ruler
kneaded eraser
no. 2 pencil
pencil sharpener
pens in a variety of tip thicknesses

STEP 1

Pencil in two horizontal lines 1 inch (25mm) apart. Connect them with four vertical lines, each an equal distance apart. The three shapes that result should be slightly taller than they are wide.

STEP 2

Draw the eyebrows, and upper and lower lash lines. The angle of each line tilts up slightly toward the center of the drawing. The upper eyelashes’ curves are more pronounced.

Your guidelines help get the proper distances for the lash lines, but for the eyebrows you need to use your judgment to get the correct space between each line and the lash lines below.

STEP 3
Add the iris of each eye, leaving a small white circle at the top for the highlight.

STEP 4
Place an oval behind the highlight within each iris. Add a smaller loop within each of those ovals to indicate the pupils. Extra credit if you replicate the slight flattening of the bottom of the ovals as they near the lower eyelashes. Add two curving lines above each eye for the eyelid folds.

STEP 5
Use your pen of choice to ink. If you've been careful, you now know exactly where to put the heavy black lines.

STEP 6
Once the ink dries, erase all the pencilled guidelines.

Keep Your Pencil Lines Light!

The pencil lines in the step-by-step lessons of this book appear darker for clarity, but you'll want to keep them quite light in your own drawings. Pencil lines need to be erased after inking.

Character Design

Choosing Your Style

Note that each head has as its base a circle at the top with intersecting lines in it. This is a great starting point because it's the same every time. The dead center of a circle doesn't change. Once I have the circle, I add intersecting lines. The rest of the face can be built once you see where the lines should fall to produce the type of face you want.

Realistic

This face falls so close to true human anatomy it almost doesn't qualify as manga. On a real human face, the eyes are much smaller, and the nose and mouth far more prominent. The ears are at the same level as the eyes.

Slightly Cartoony
This facial construction is what you might see in boy's action-oriented manga. The eyes get bigger, and the nose and mouth become less detailed. However, the distance between the eyes and the tip of the nose is still pretty close to real anatomy.

Very Cartoony
In this approach the enlarged eyes result in a different relationship with the rest of the features, and the ears are now level with the nose.

I can't stress enough how important it is to replicate this balance if you want to do this style. Manga fans are a discerning bunch. If you get it wrong, they'll see it and let you know!

Extremely Cartoony
We're reaching the far edge of the spectrum here, but have not pushed it to the limit. This style lends itself more to the shojo romance genre, where expressive eyes are what it's about. Looking at the circle of the blue-print drawing, you'll find the eyebrows are very high on this head.

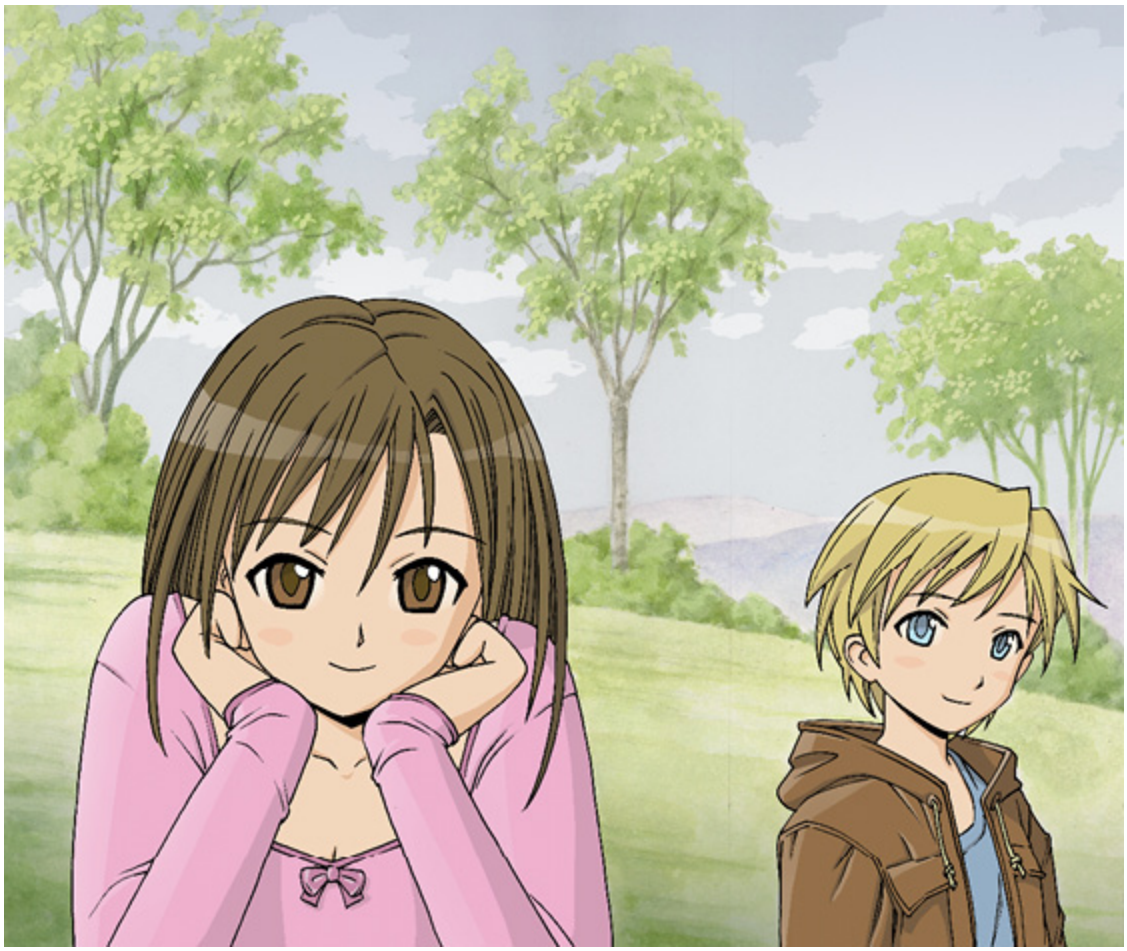
Pay Attention to the Whole Face

In all these drawings it's not just a matter of "the eyes get bigger." They do, of course, but the nose and mouth get de-emphasized as well.

Heads and Faces

The face is far and away the most important aspect of manga drawing. If you're great at drawing backgrounds and clothing but are getting the faces wrong, you'll have a hard time getting your art accepted by manga fans.

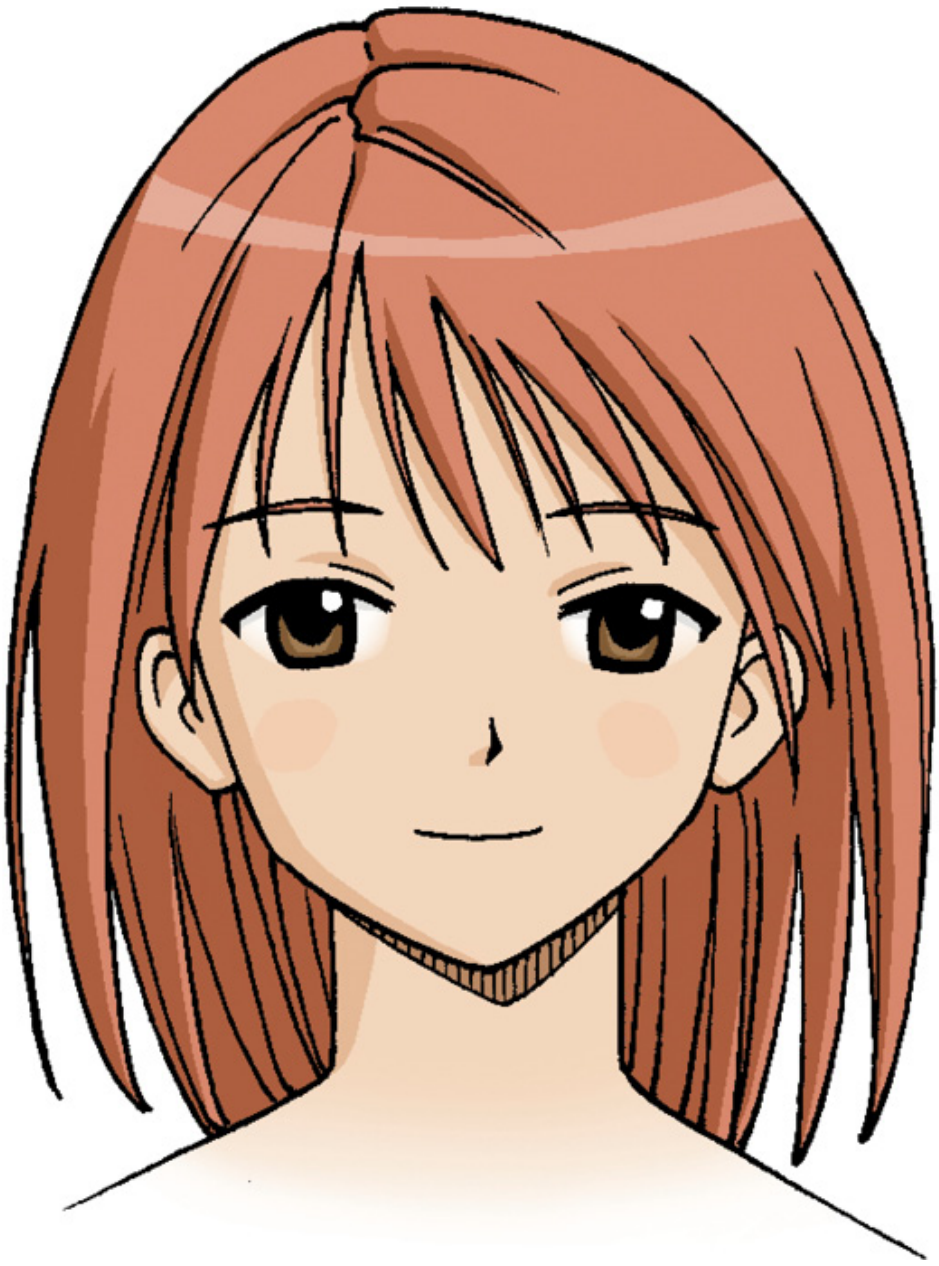
Happily, drawing a manga face well is within the grasp of even the most inexperienced artist, provided you are willing to start with a few basic guidelines.

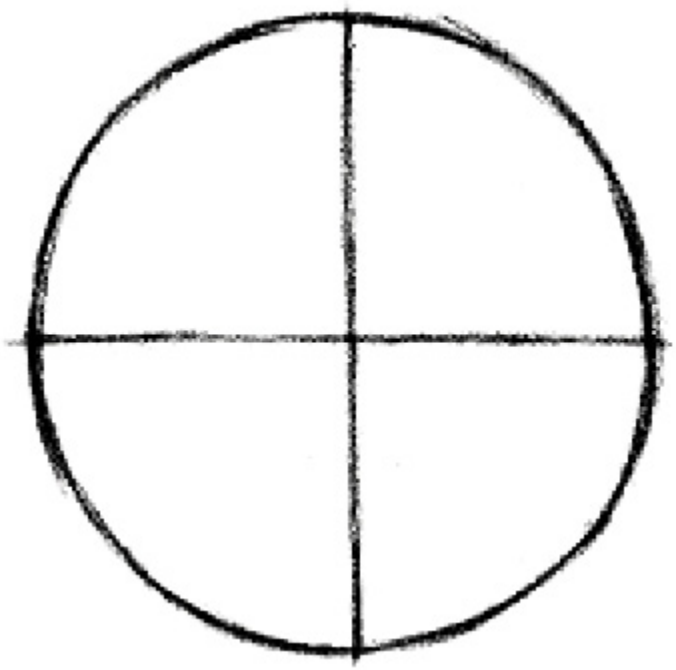


Female Front View

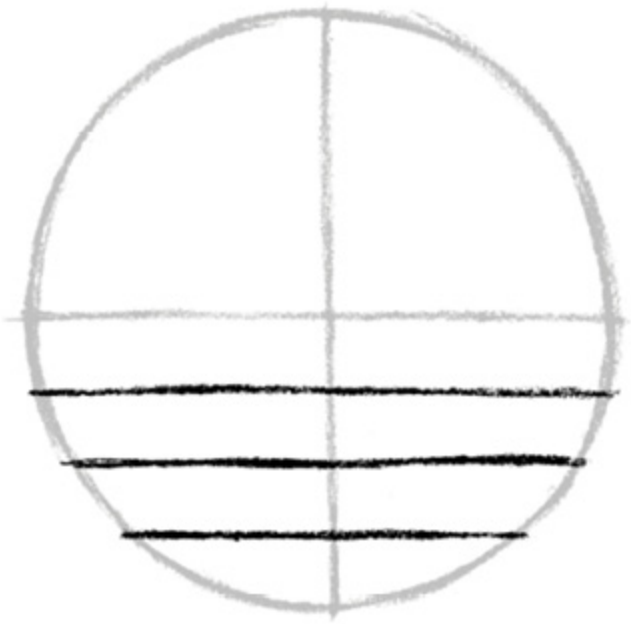
Some artists draw faces that are nearly photographic, others draw characters with eyes the size of dinner plates. In this lesson you'll learn to draw a face structure somewhere between those two extremes: Recognizably "manga" in its approach, but not too over-the-top.

The emphasis is on getting the head shape right and placing the eyes, nose and mouth in their proper locations.

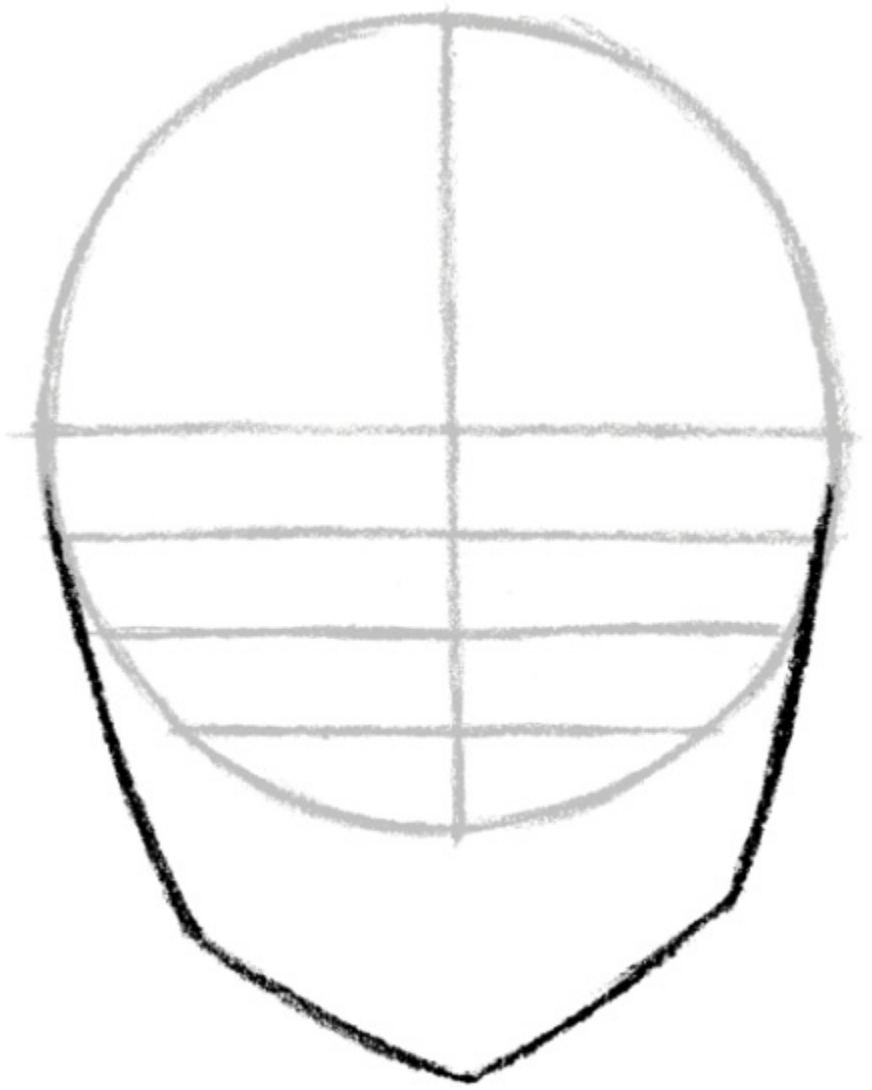




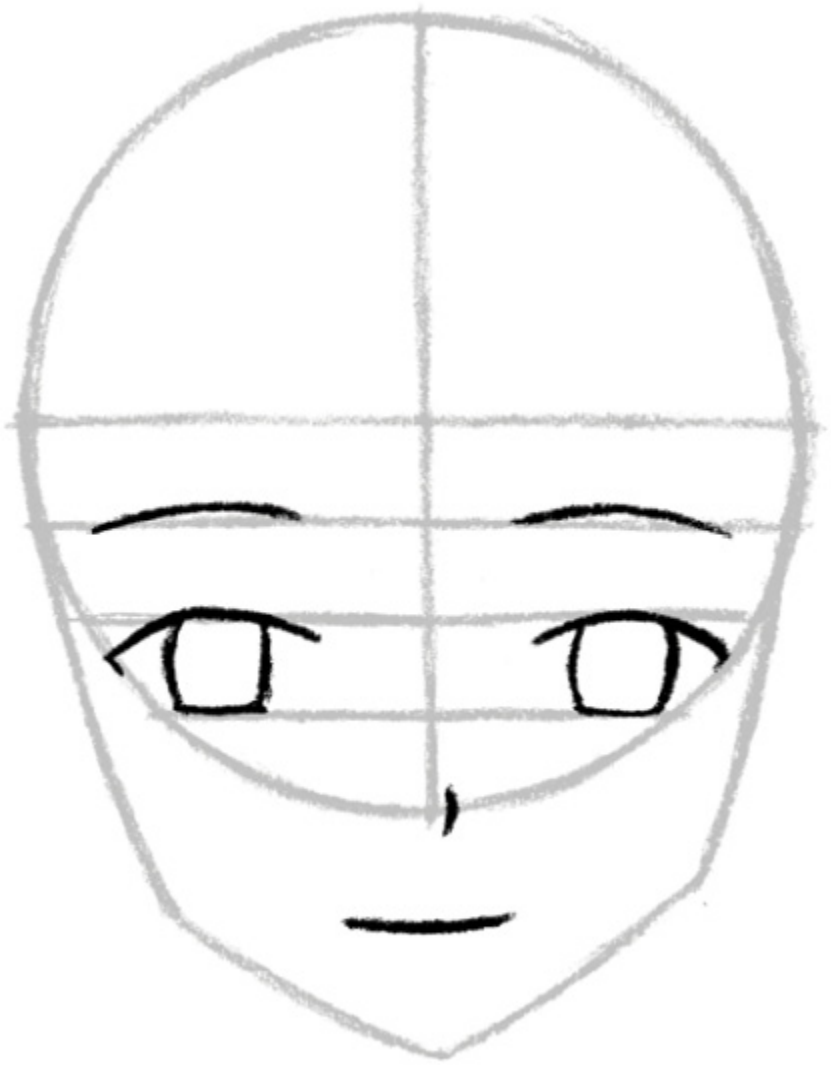
STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Draw a rough circle divided by a vertical line and a horizontal line. The vertical line is to help you place the nose. The horizontal line will help place the eyebrows and eyes.



STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections with three lines. The first line will be for the eyebrows. The second will be for the upper eyelashes of the eyes. The third will be for the irises.



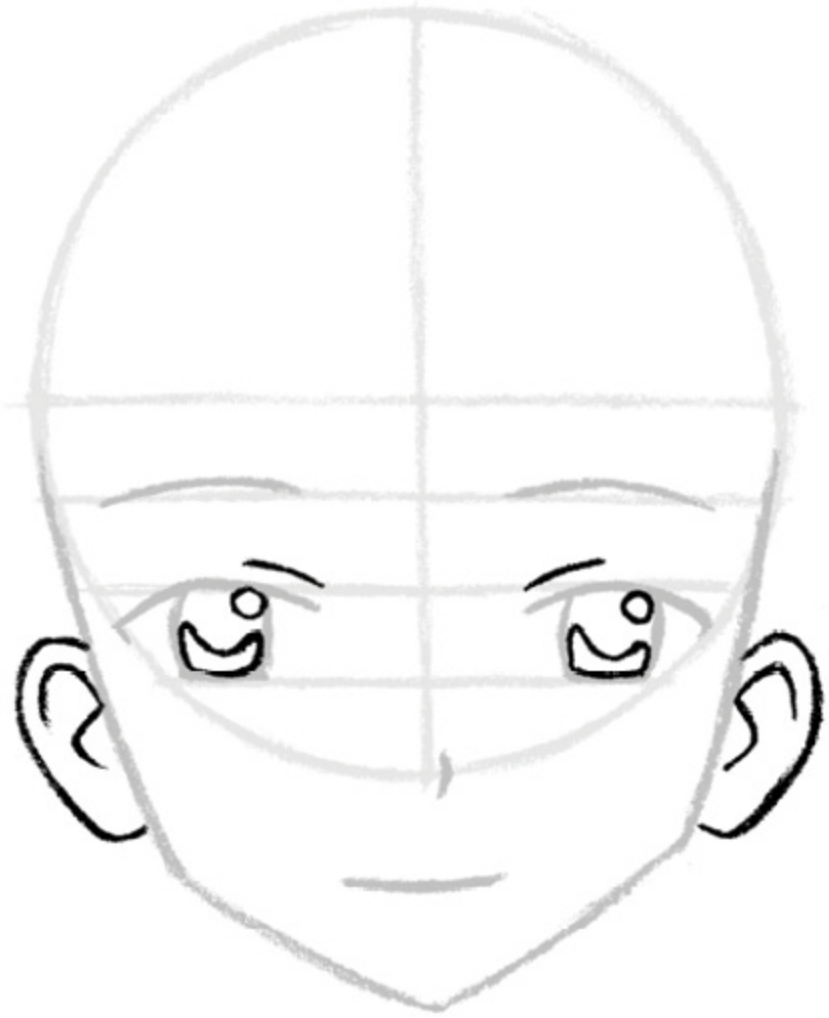
STEP 3 Outline the Jaw
Add lines for the jaw. Focus on the angles of each line and the shape created between them and the circle. The distance between the bottom of the circle and the chin is about a quarter of the circle’s diameter.



STEP 4 Place the Features

The upper eyelash lines touch the edge of the circle on each side. Keep the width of one eye blank between the eyes. This blank space is as important as the eye shapes.

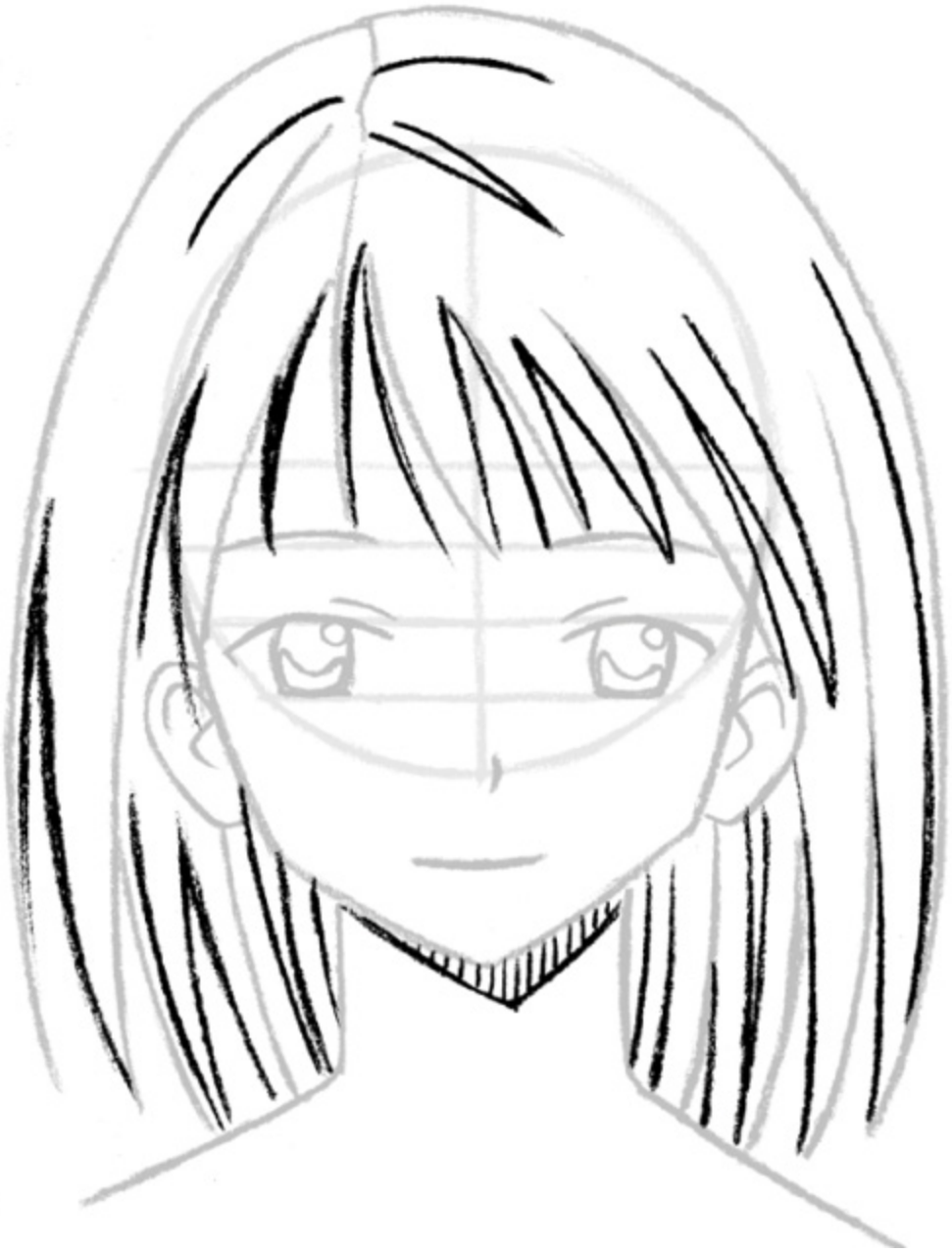
The nose rests on the bottom of the circle. Place it exactly in the center if you prefer. The mouth is midway between the circle and the tip of the jaw.



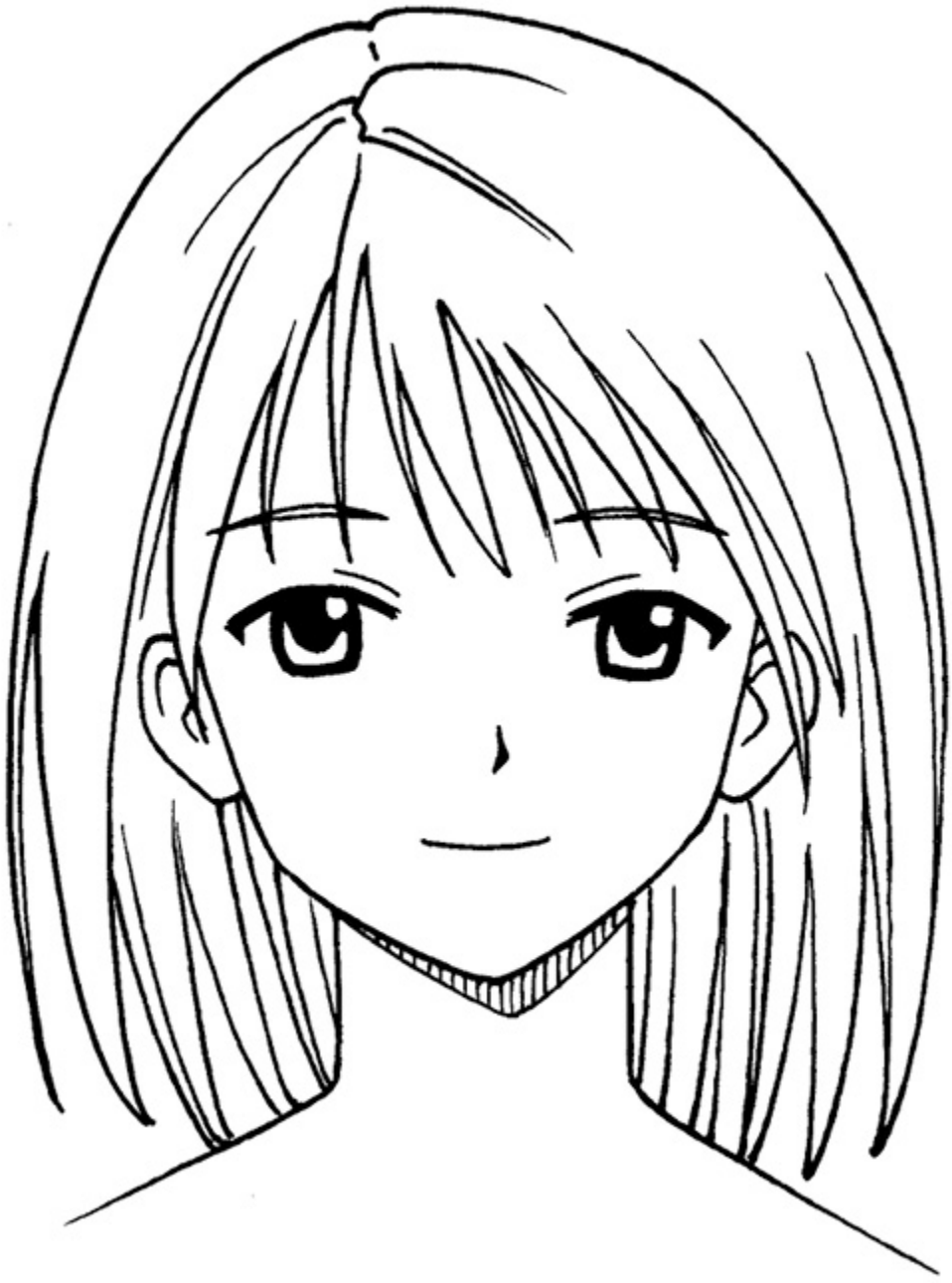
STEP 5 Draw the Ears and Eyes
The top of the ear is about as high as the middle of each eye. The bottom is not quite as far down as the line of the mouth.

The line above each eye indicate the fold of the upper eyelid. Many artists place these lines above the inside corners of each eye, not stretching all the way across as they do in real life.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck
Add lines for the hair, neck and shoulders. The upper line of the hair is a fair distance above the circle, nearly a quarter of the entire diameter. Manga heads tend to be fairly top heavy this way, which contributes to the youthful look of the characters.



STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Indicate the shadow beneath her chin and add details to her hair. The hair lines curve following the shape of the head.

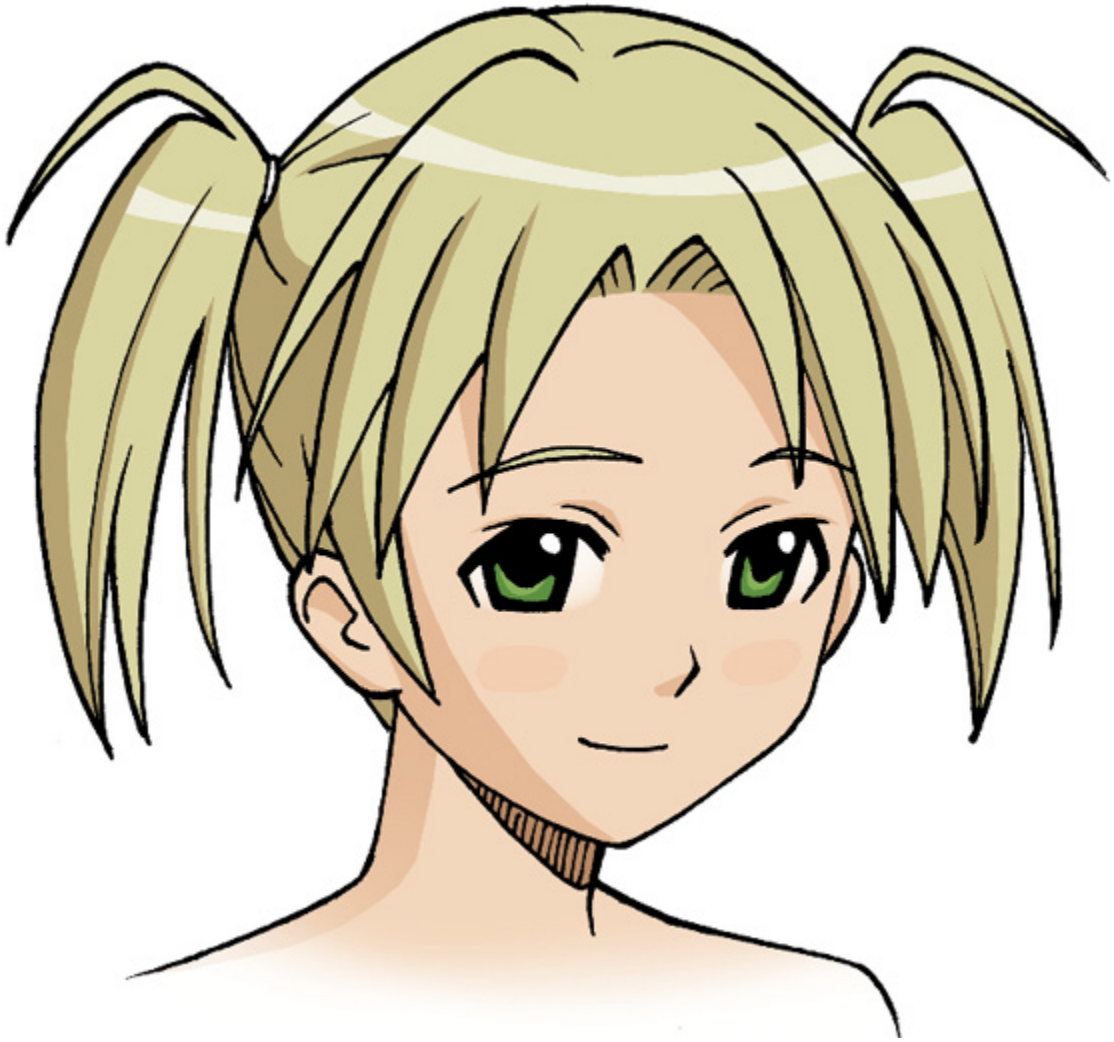


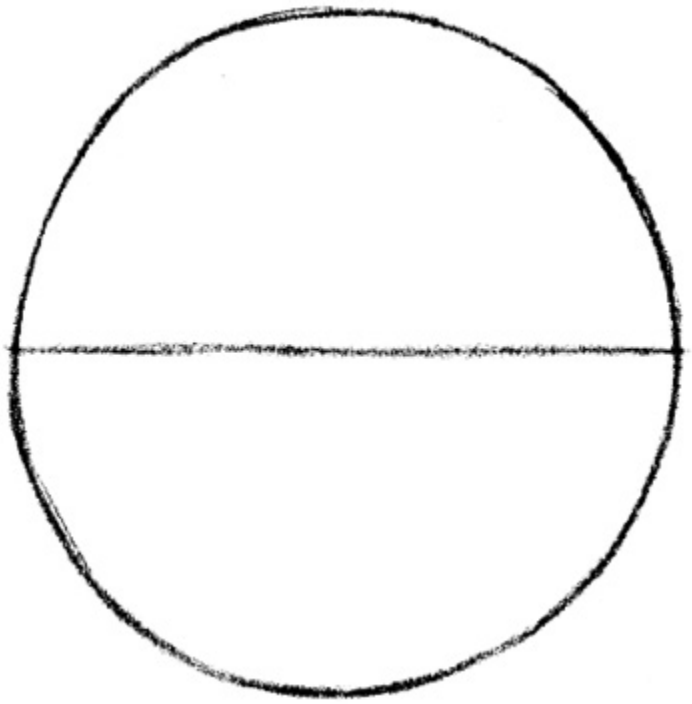
STEP 8 Finish the Drawing
Ink all the lines you want to keep and erase the rough guidelines once the ink dries completely. The finished drawing can be enhanced with gray tones or given the full color treatment.

Female Three-Quarter View

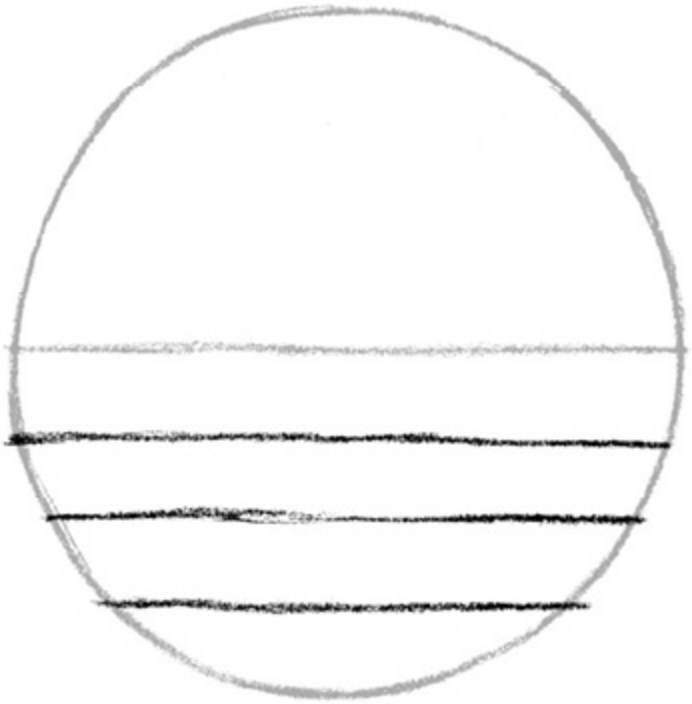
The most important way of drawing a manga face is not the front view but the three-quarter view. After all, in an actual manga story it’s uncommon to have a character speak straight to the reader. More often the character speaks to another character within the story and will be slightly turned to one side.

Fortunately it’s not that difficult and takes just a little practice to draw like a pro!

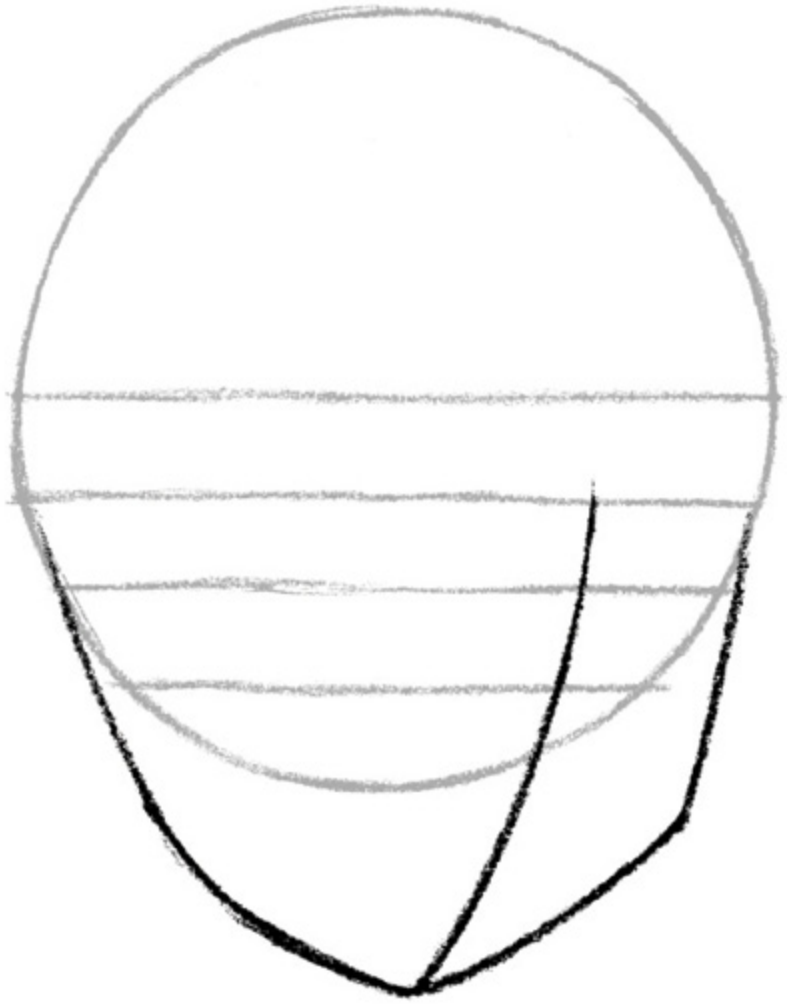




STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide it with a horizontal line.



STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.

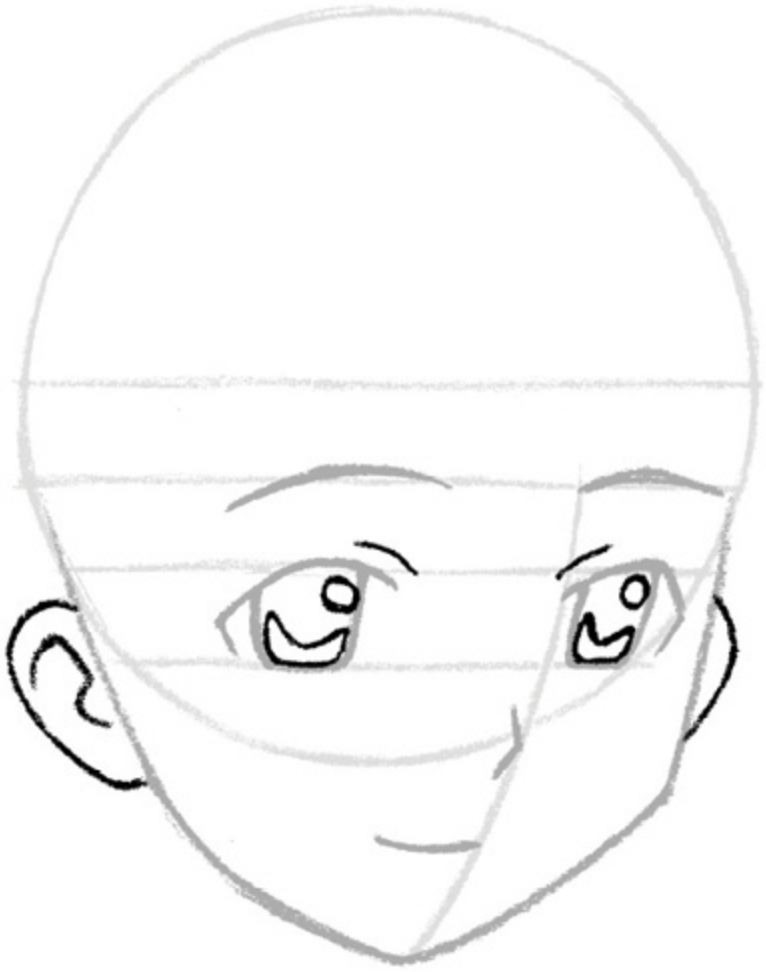


STEP 3 Outline the Jaw
Add a gently curving vertical line that starts at the chin and heads a little off to one side. Focus on these lines and the shapes they make in relation to the circle. The line should stop at the brow line, second from the top.

STEP 4 Place the Features

Draw the eyes, eyebrows, nose, and mouth. All four of these facial features touch the curving line at various intersections. Be careful placing the left eye. The blank spaces surrounding it are as important as the eye itself.

Note that in the three-quarter view her right eyebrow is not directly above the eye, but a little off to one side.



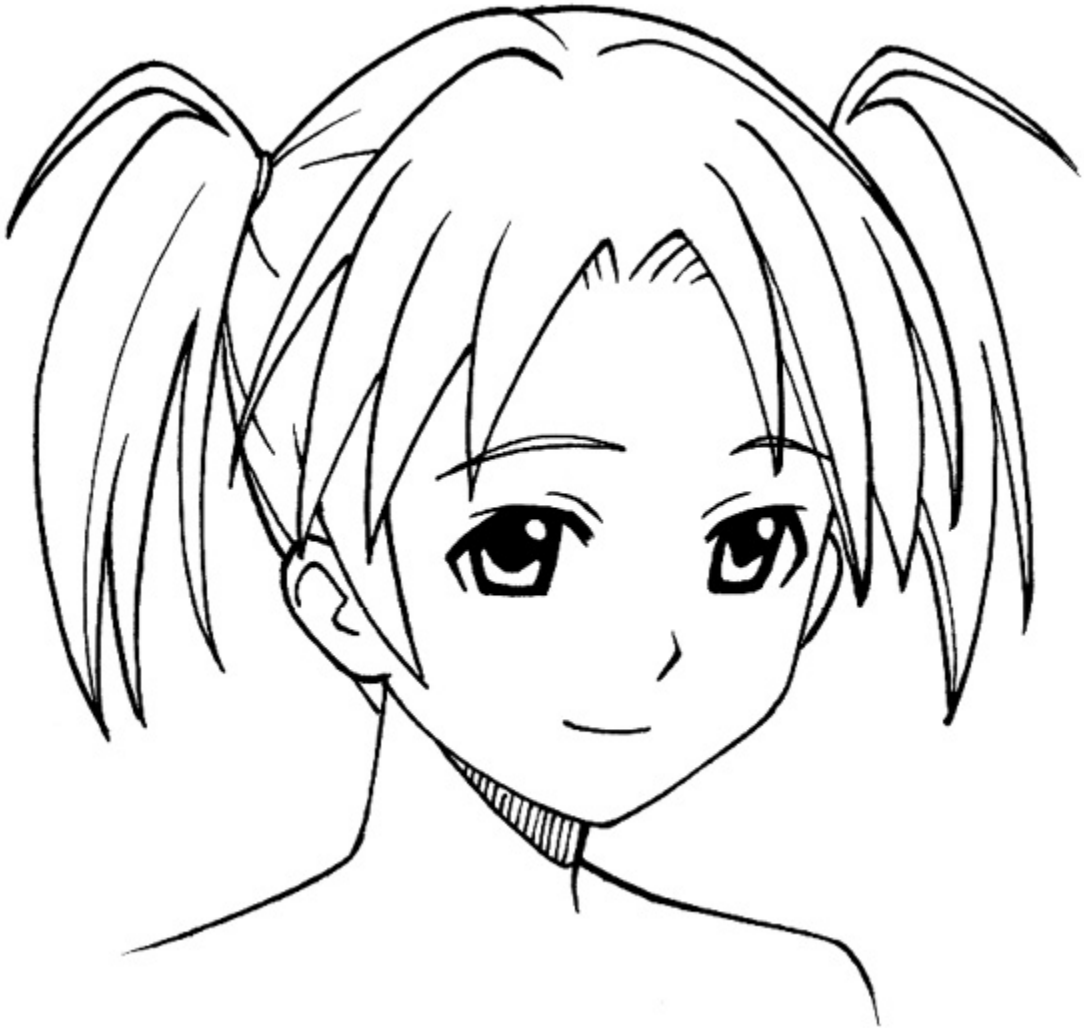
STEP 5 Draw the Ears and Eyes
Create a highlight near the top and a curving shape at the bottom of each iris. Also add short curving lines just above the inside corner of each eye.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck

Draw the neck so that it meets the intersection of the ear and cheek on one side, and the tip of the chin on the other.

Begin sketching out the hair.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add shape to the hair with additional lines. An extra stray hair or two at the top of her pigtails can add a natural look. Indicating a shadow beneath the chin helps the picture look three-dimensional.



STEP 8 Finish It

We’re nearly done! Grab your pens and ink all the final lines. Let it dry then erase the guidelines to leave a polished, professional finish.

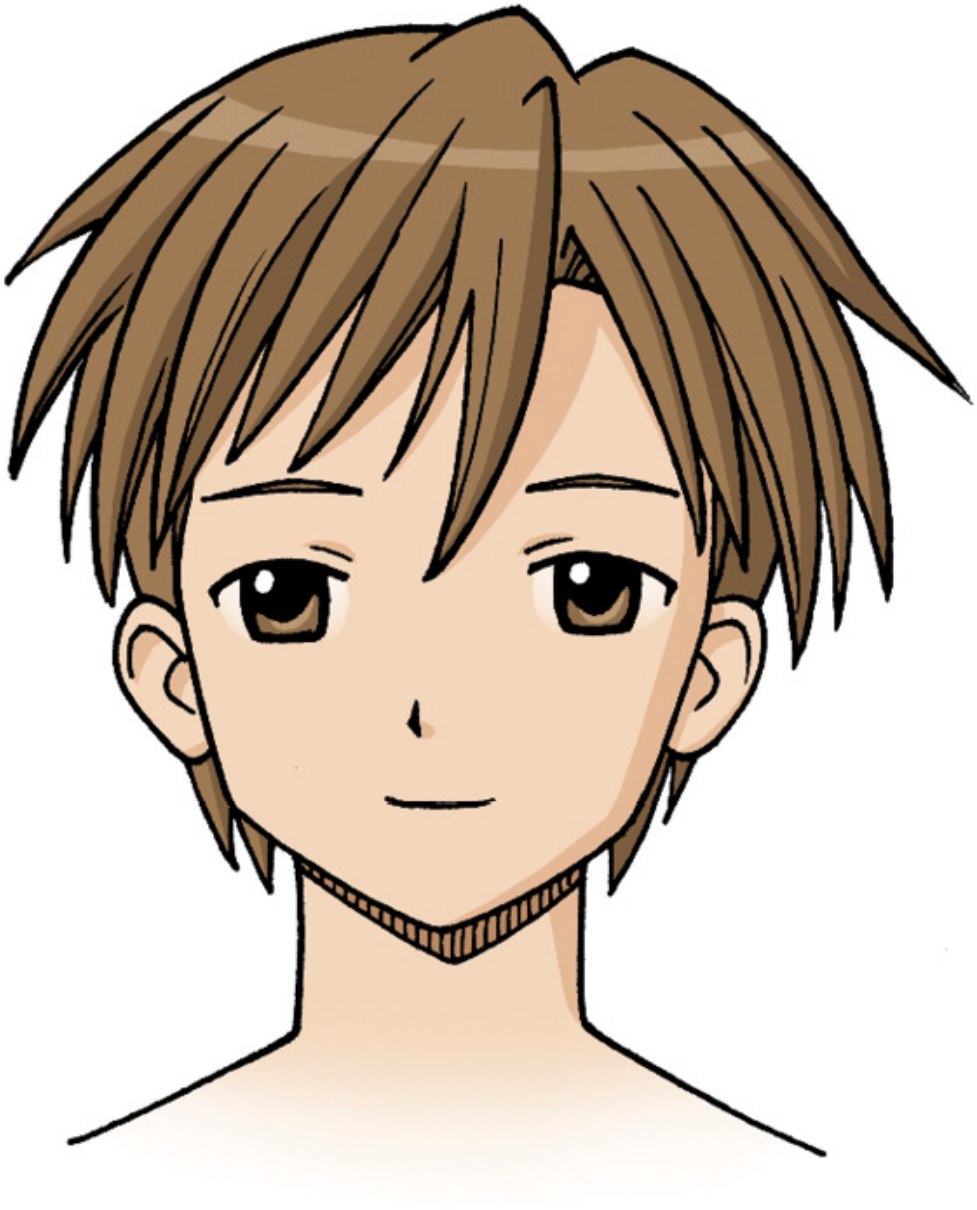
Happy Hairstyling

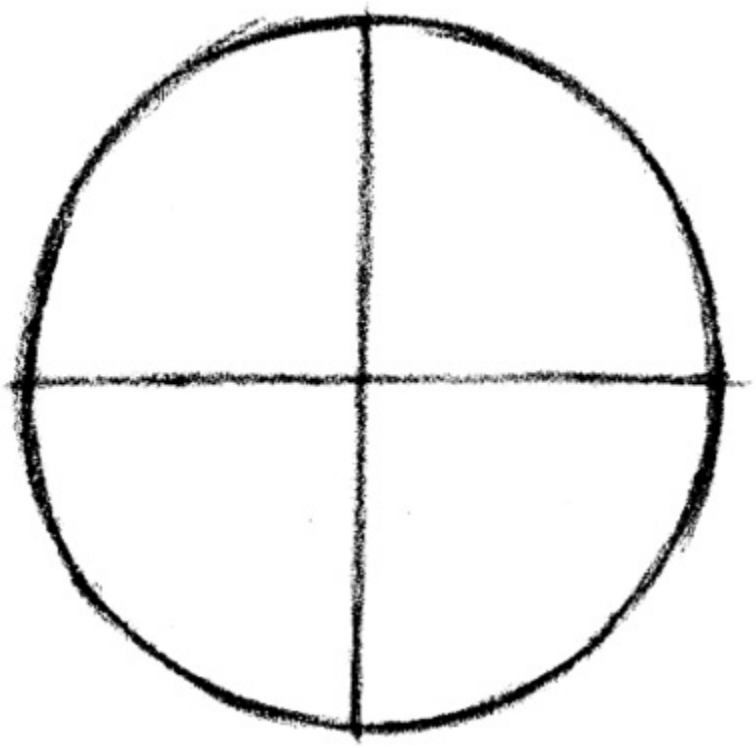
Of course, there’s no need to make your character have the same hairstyle you see here. You can find more hairstyle ideas in 20 Female Hairstyles.

Male Front View

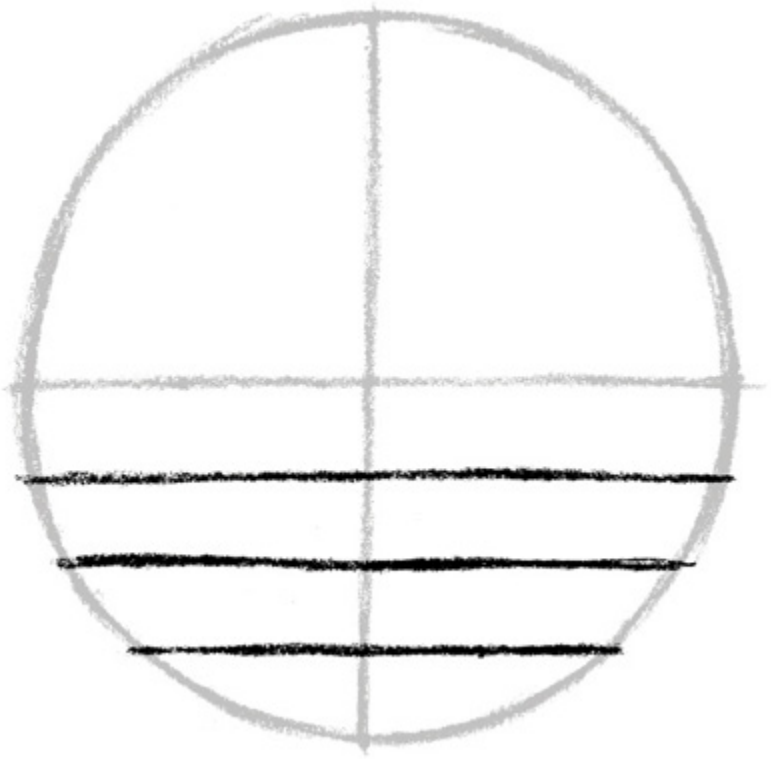
In the American and European style comic book tradition, male and female characters are drawn in dramatically different ways. Superman’s face is much more square-jawed than Lois Lane’s, and if you were to reverse the two facial structures the results would be bizarre indeed! This is not the case with the majority of manga characters, where the differences between male and female facial structures are often negligible. We are left to tell which is which mainly by the hair and just a hint of a difference in the eyes.

This is good news for aspiring manga artists. If you can draw female faces well, you’re just a few line adjustments away from drawing males. In fact, the first five steps are almost exactly the same!

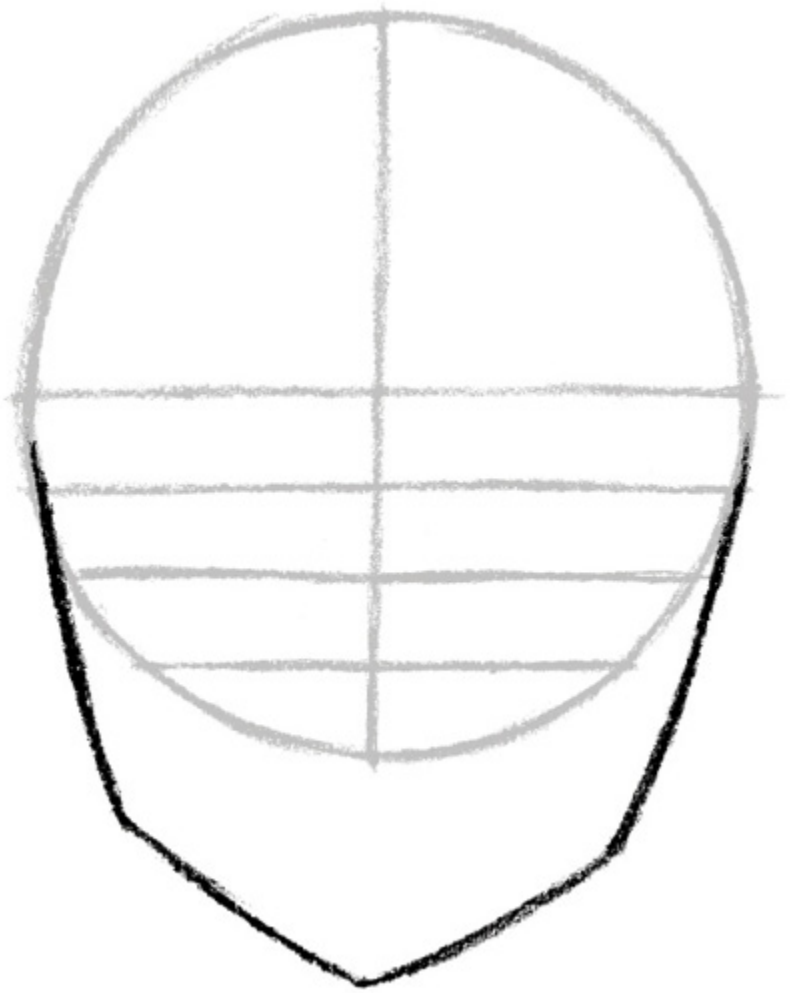




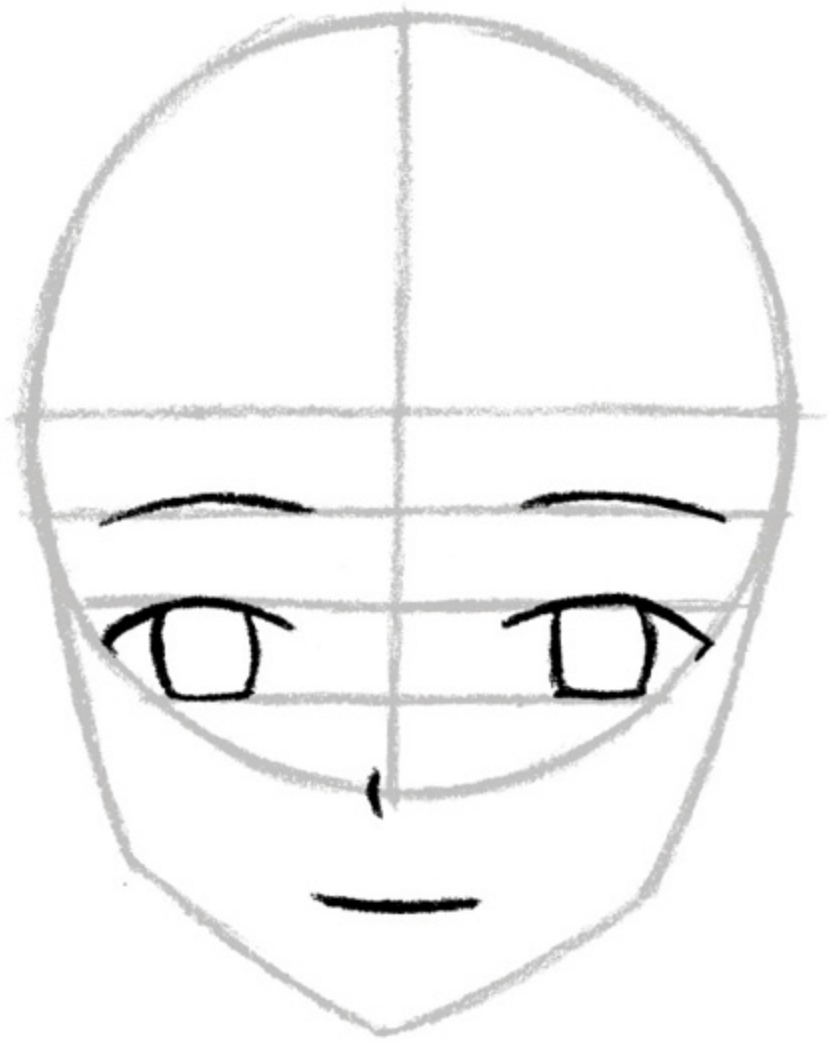
STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide with horizontal and vertical lines.



STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



STEP 3 Outline the Jaw
Focus on the angles of each line and the shape that is created between them and the circle. The distance between the bottom of the circle and the tip of the jaw is about a quarter of the circle’s diameter.

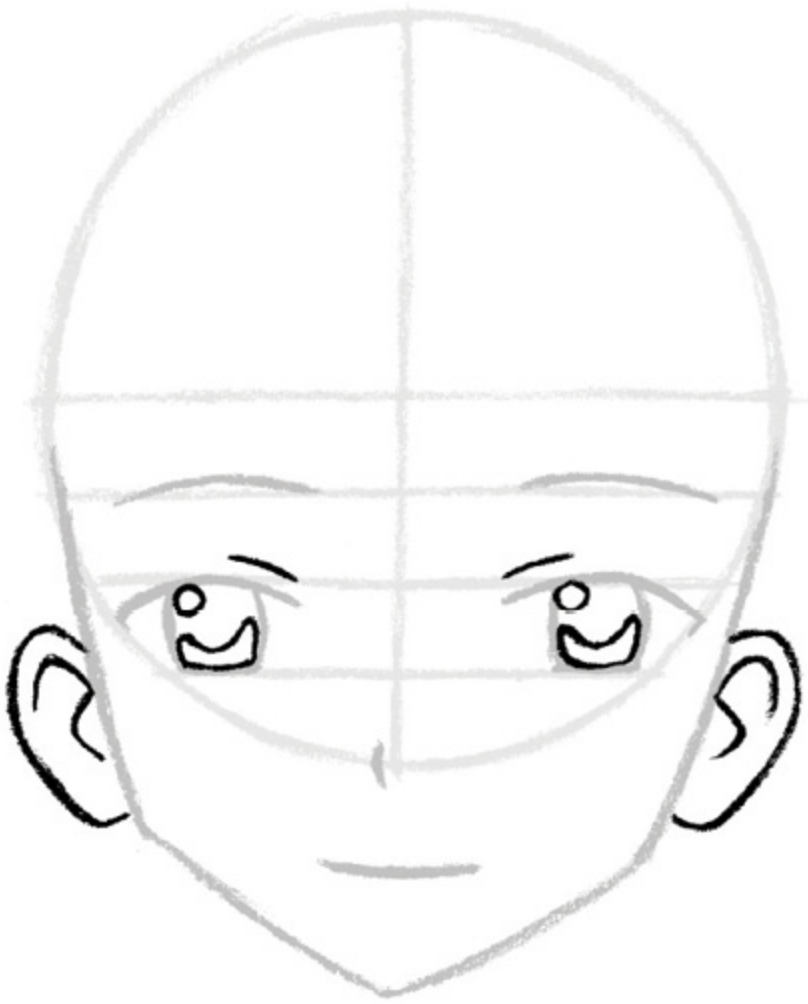


STEP 4 Place the Features

The upper eyelash lines touch the edge of the circle on each side. Keep a blank space the width of one eye between the eyes.

The nose rests on the bottom of the circle. Place it in the center if you prefer.

The mouth is midway between the circle and the tip of the jaw.

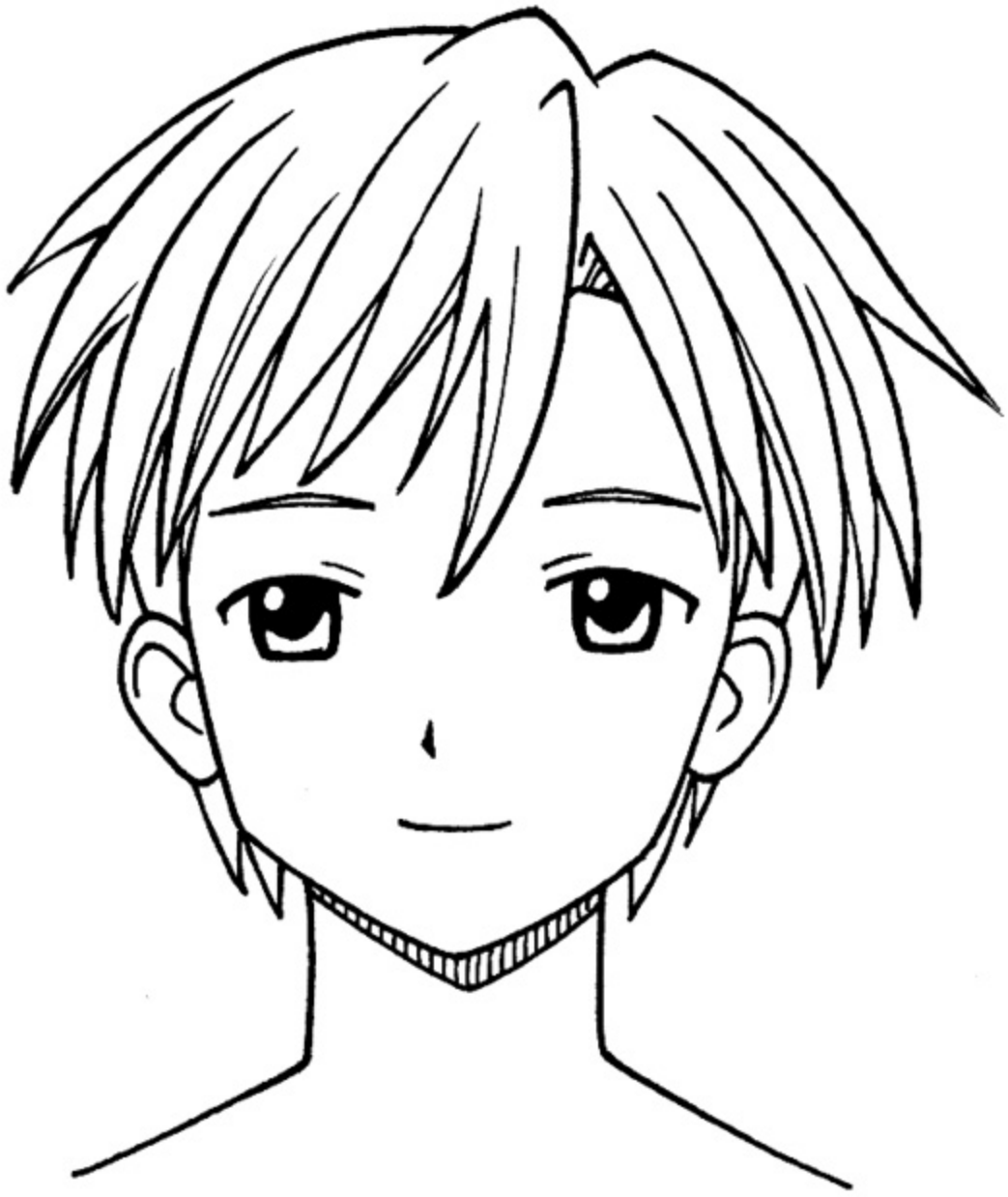


STEP 5 Draw the Ears and Eyes
The top of the ear starts at the middle of each eye. The bottom is just above the line of the mouth.

The lines over the eyelids indicate folds. Place these lines above the inside corner of each eye. The small circles in each iris are highlights and make the eyes look shiny.

STEP 6 Add the Hair and Neckline
Not all boys have short hair, but a comparatively short haircut makes your character readable as a male.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Manga artists often structure the hair as I have here with the strands on the forehead parting so they don’t obstruct the eyes. Add an indication of shadow beneath the chin and you’re ready to ink.



STEP 8 Finish It

The lines of the upper eyelashes are a little more thin than in the female version, a small but crucial detail because it is the only facial difference between the two.

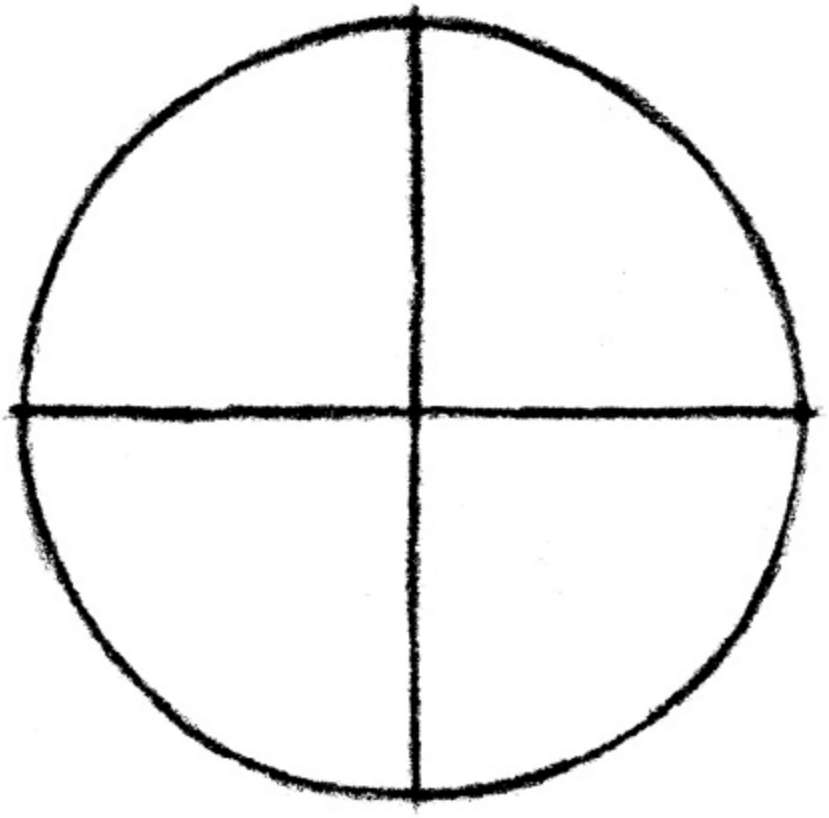
Let the ink dry completely, then erase. Leave as is, shade or color!

Hair Raising

You can try one of the 20 Male Hairstyles we talk about later, too!

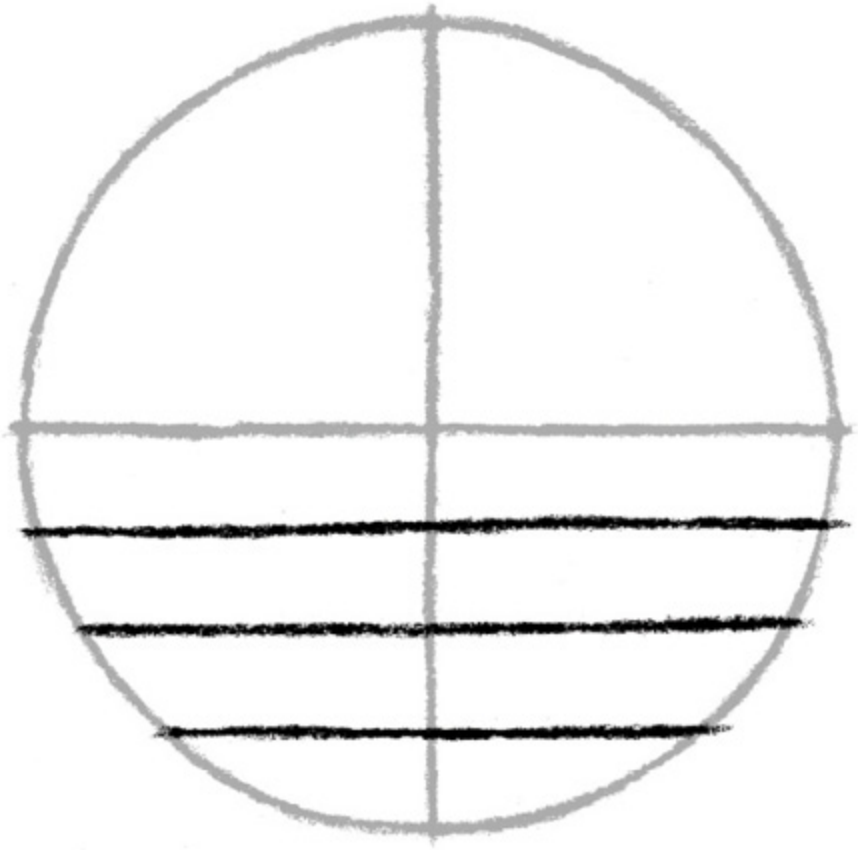
Male Profile View

Drawing a realistic face in profile presents unique challenges that can trip up even the most experienced illustrators. A manga face in profile is considerably more streamlined and simplified, but nevertheless requires special effort to master. The distances between the various facial features must be learned, of course, but added to this is the challenge of drawing the contours of the forehead, nose and mouth.

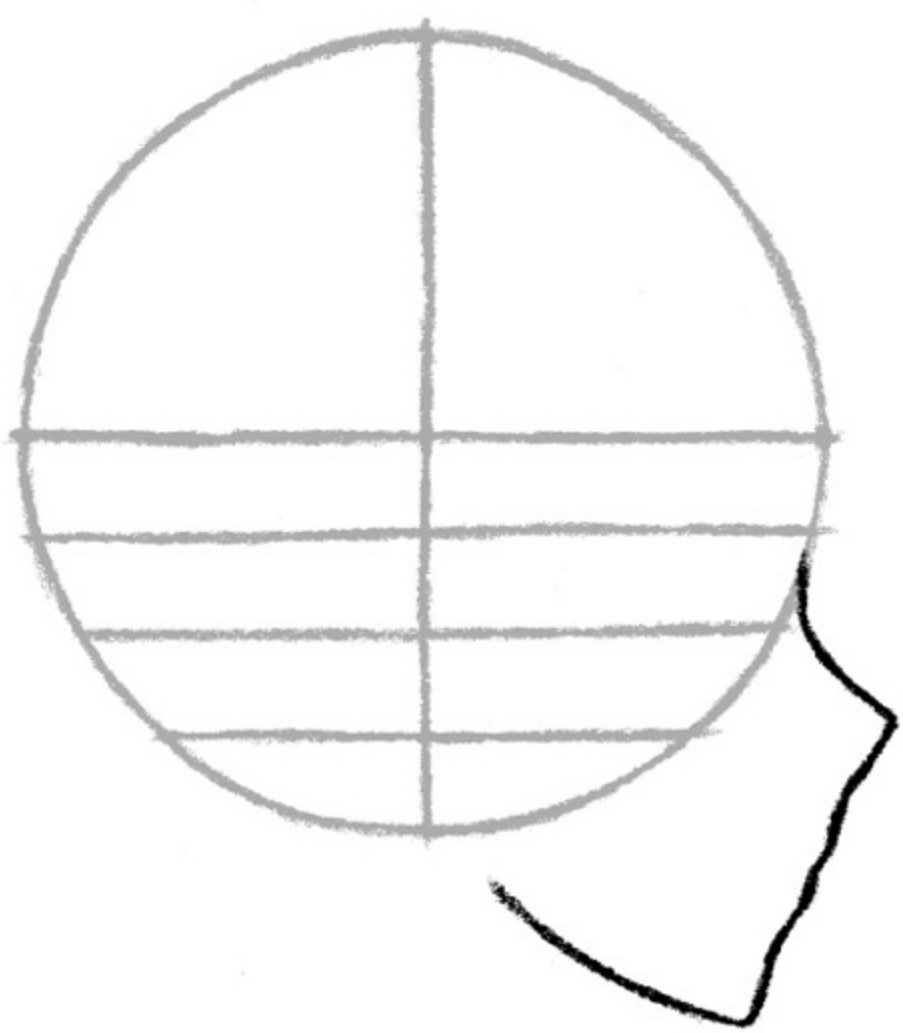


STEP 1 Draw Your Circle

Divide the circle by vertical and horizontal lines. This time the vertical line is there to help you place the ear. The horizontal line will help you place the eyebrow.



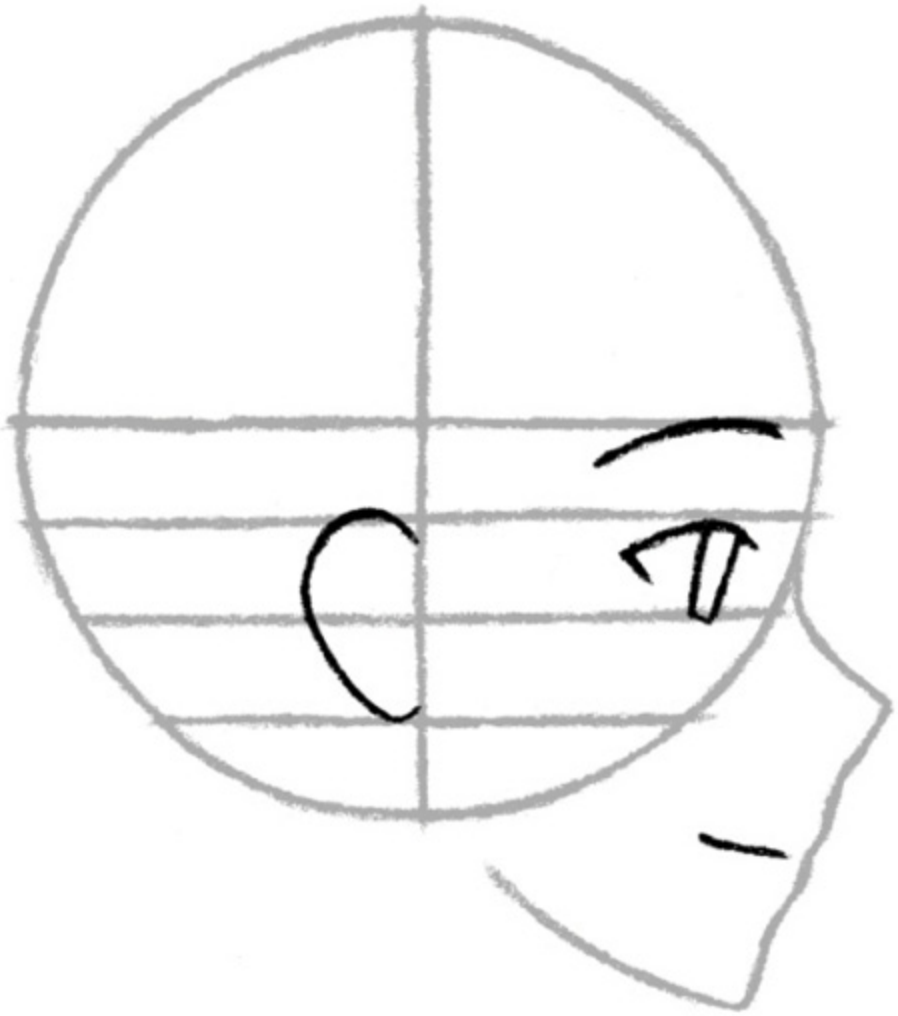
STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



STEP 3 Outline the Jaw

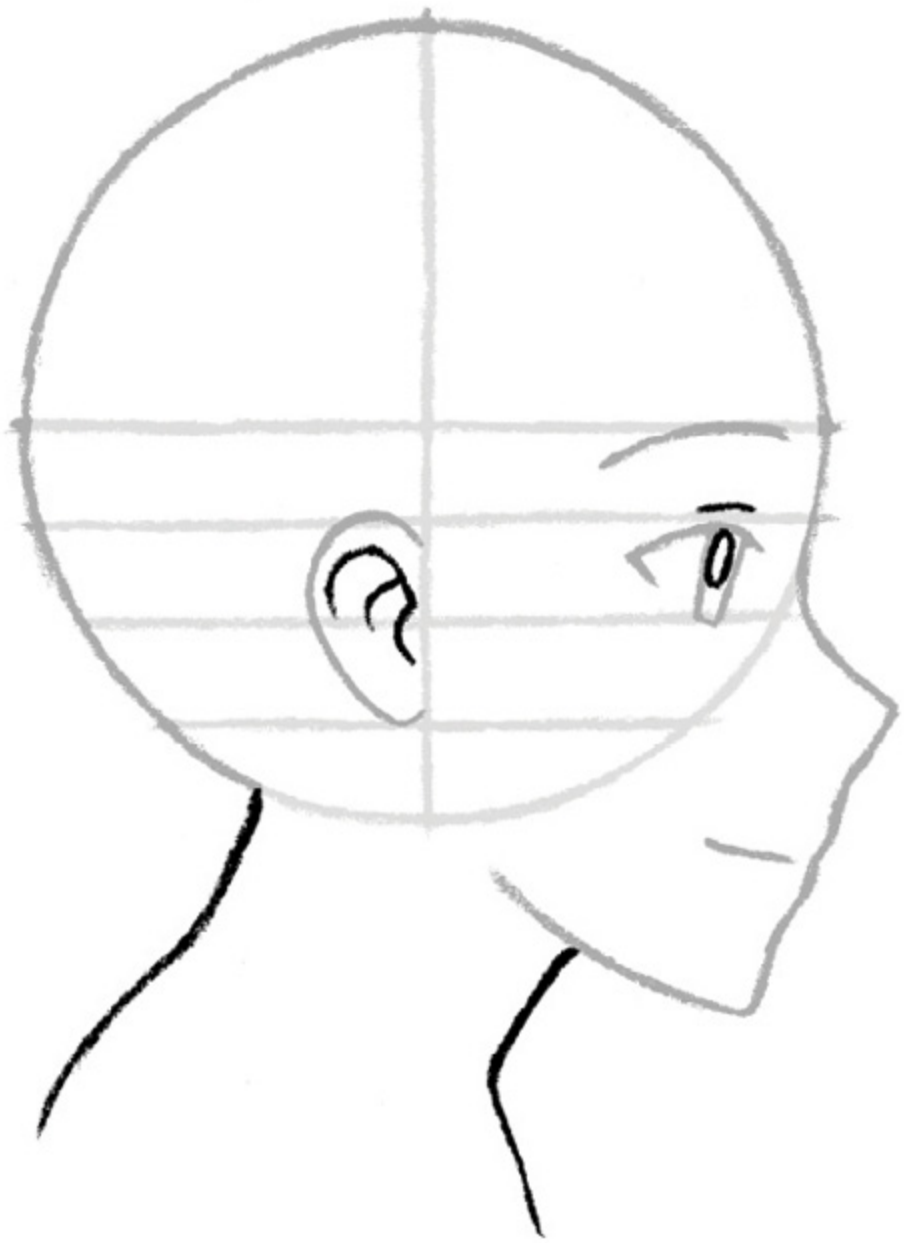
Begin with a line that curves off from the circle between the 2nd and 3rd lines. The angle as it reaches the tip of the nose is just a touch higher than the bottom horizontal line. From there draw a line down to the chin with small bumps for the lips midway down.

Finally, add the curving line of the jaw, making it point back toward the bottom of the vertical line, without quite touching it.



STEP 4 Place the Features
Add the eye, eyebrow, ear and mouth. The eye rests between the 2nd and 3rd horizontal line’s, and is close to the edge of the circle, but doesn’t touch it.

The ear sits between the 2nd and 4th horizontal lines and is flat against the vertical line. The mouth is close to the midway point between the nose and chin.



STEP 5 Add Details

Join the neck to the head a touch to the left of the ear on the back of the neck. The line of the throat starts halfway between the tip of chin and the bottom of the vertical line.

Add pupils to the eyes and curves to the inside of the ear.

STEP 6 Add the Hair
Sketch in a rough hairstyle with a few lines.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add individual strands of hair and a shadow beneath the chin.

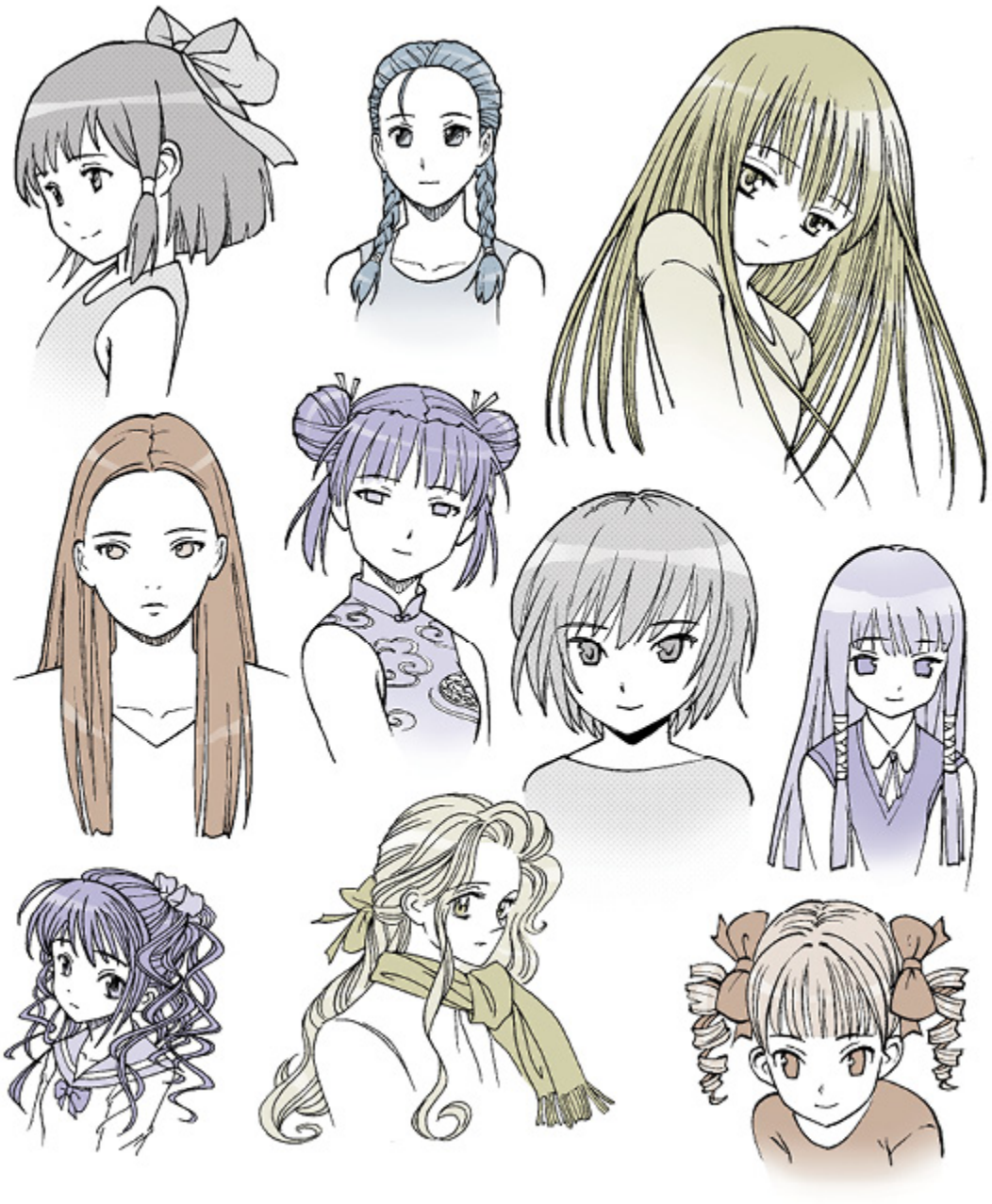
STEP 8 Finish It

Carefully ink the drawing, taking care not to ink any of the rough guidelines. Let it dry, then erase the pencil lines.

The finished drawing can be left as is, enhanced with gray tones or given the full color treatment.

20 Female Hairstyles

Knowing how to draw hairstyles is absolutely crucial in manga. With facial features and sometimes even school uniforms rendering characters all but indistinguishable from one another, the hairstyle may be the reader’s only means of telling one kid from another. These pages show twenty ways to draw manga hair for female characters.



Short Hair

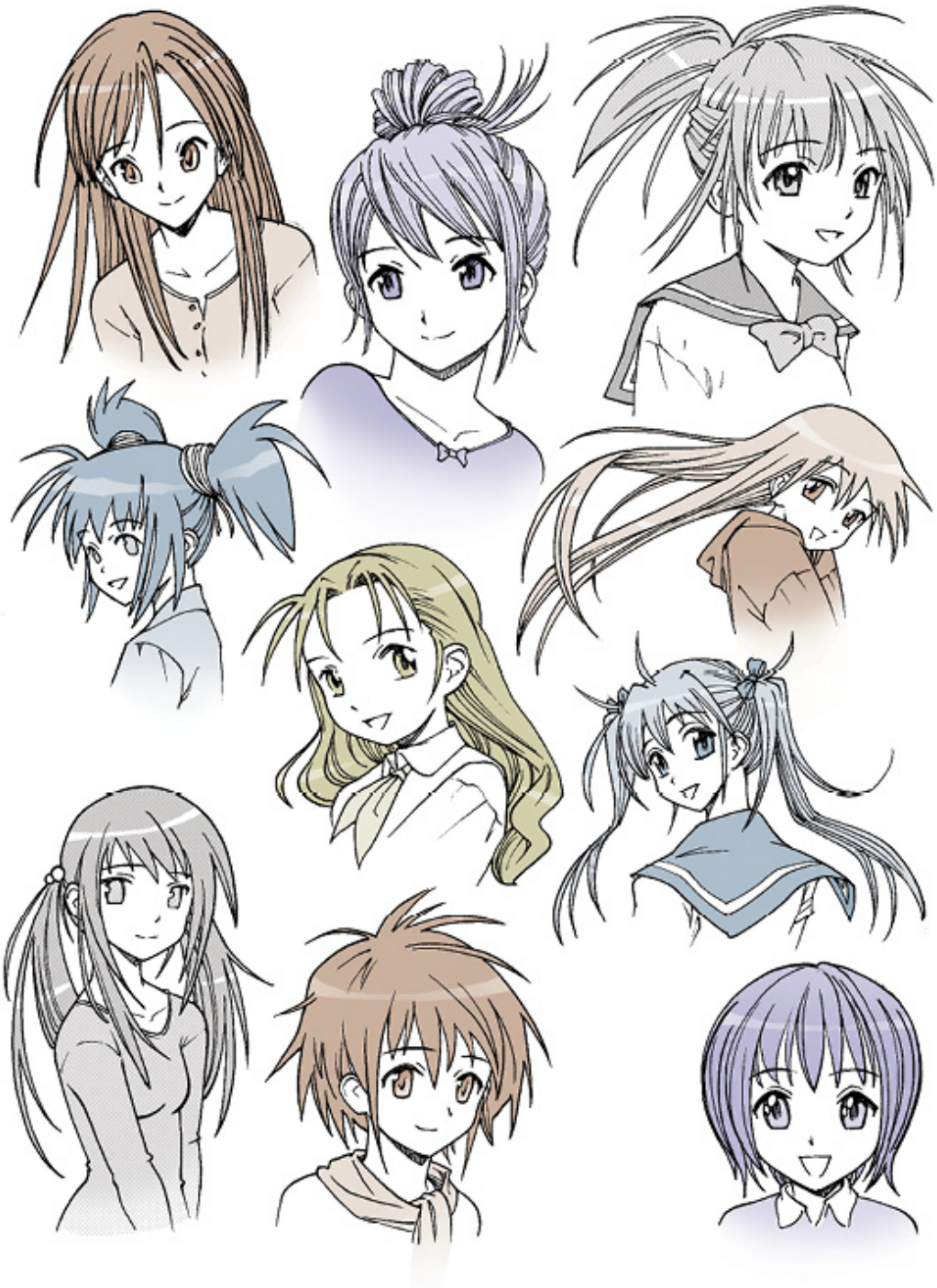
A short haircut is often used to convey innocence and a childlike nature.

Long Hair

A long, straight haircut can make a character appear more worldly.

Curly Hair

Manga artists tend to avoid the impression of frizzy hair and render curls in the form of waves or ringlets.



Pulled-Back Hair

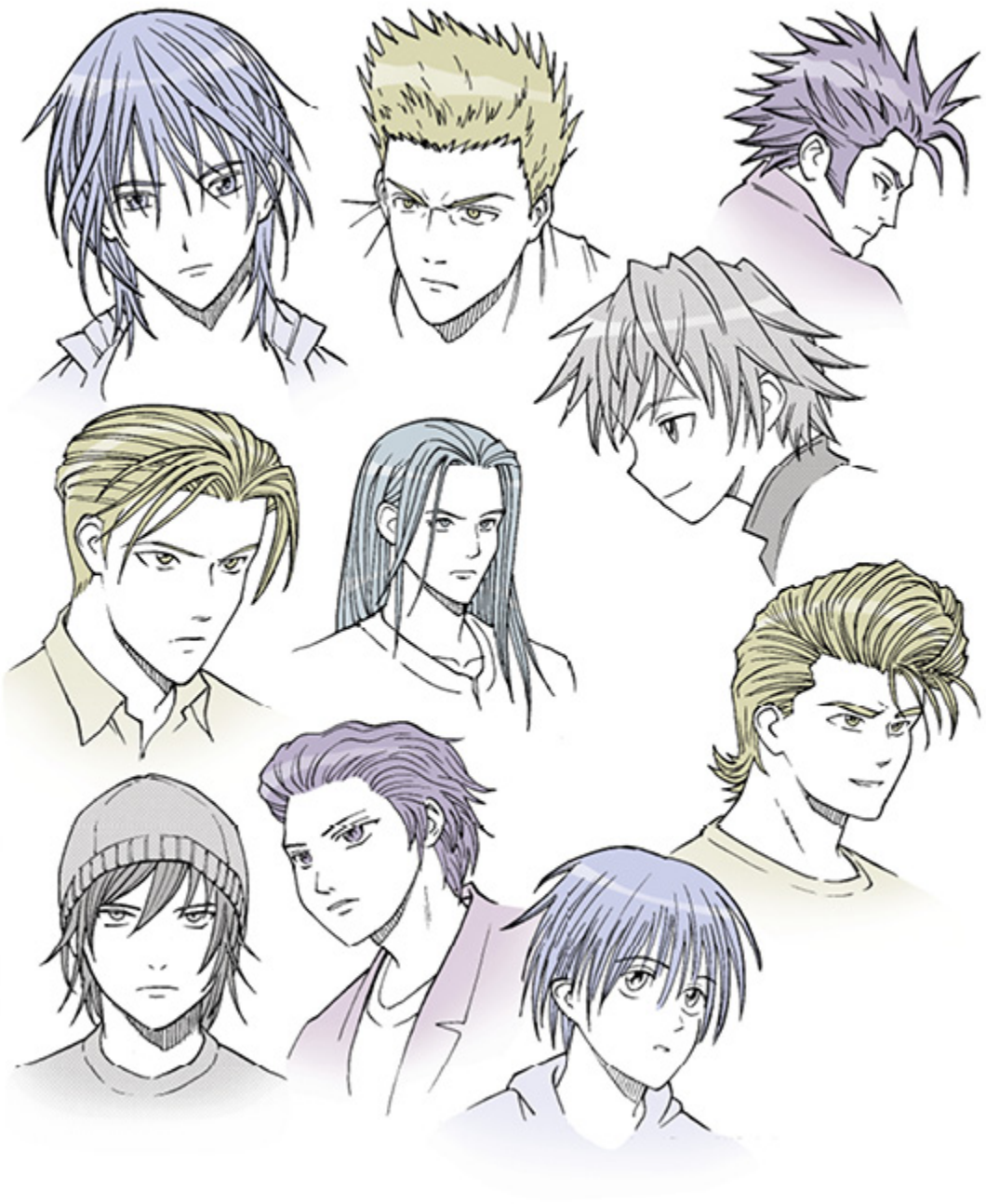
Drawing hair into a ponytail or pigtails can be a quick way of differentiating one female from another in your story.

Spiky Hair

Manga artists tend to save seriously spiky hair for the boys, but can give a female character a bit of artistic flair.

20 Male Hairstyles

Male hairstyles are somewhat more limited in variety than for females’. Still, creative artists find ways of coiffing manga guys in distinctive ways that make them instantly recognizable.

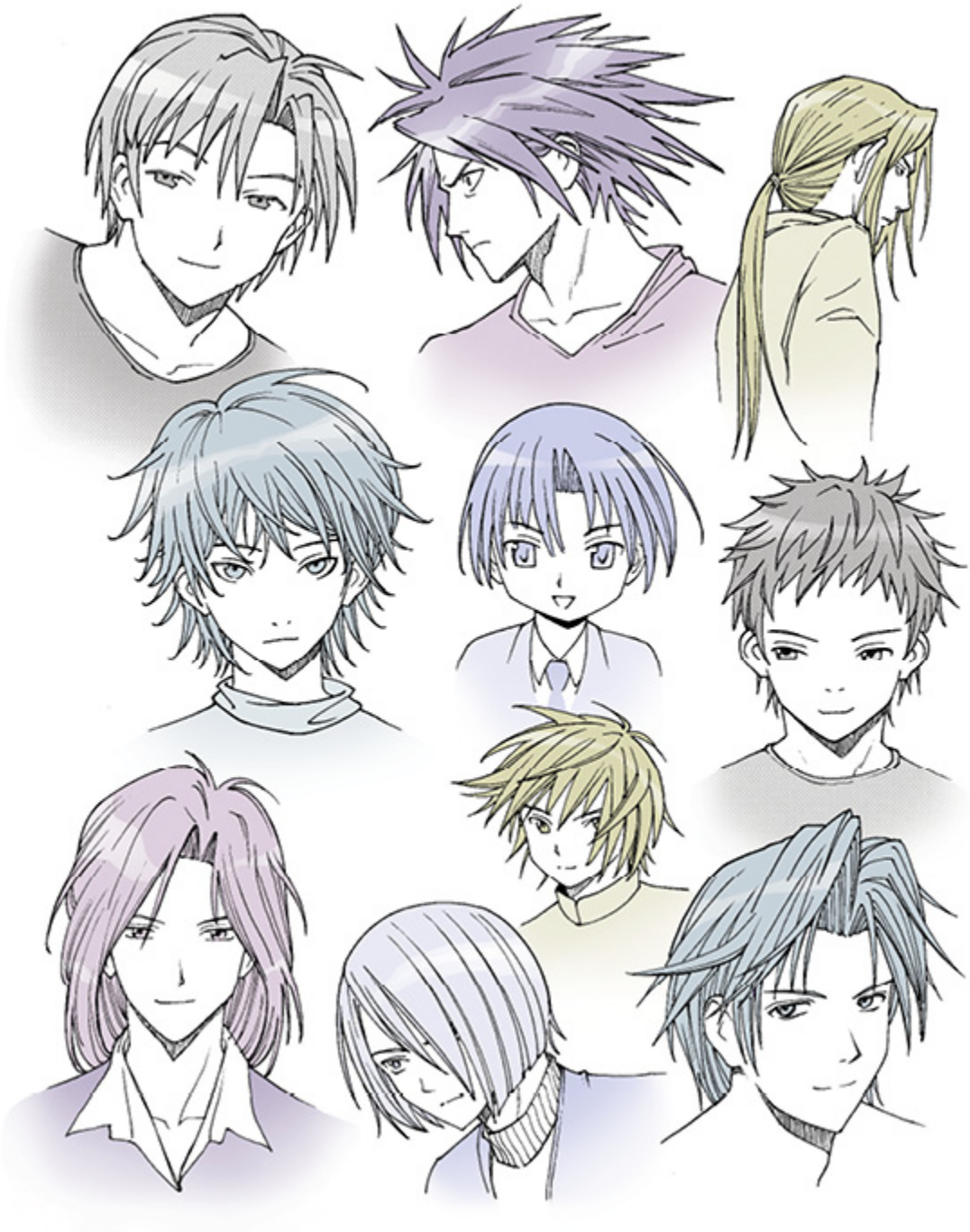


Long Hair

Drawing a male character with long hair creates a special challenge. To distinguish your long-haired guy from your female characters, give him a thicker neck and angular facial features.

The Pompadour

This unusual hairstyle is generally reserved for bad boys, but who says you can’t have the bad boy with the heart of gold?



Ponytail

Female ponytails tend to be more fluffy and full-bodied, while his is a bit more minimalist.

Windblown

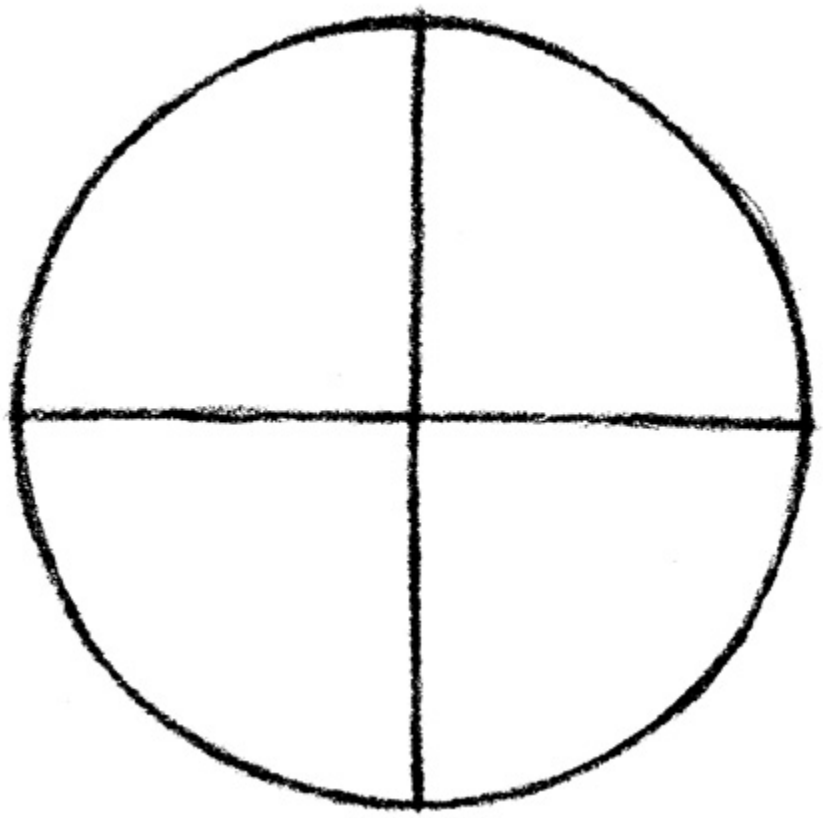
Manga characters tend to get caught in convenient “gusts of wind” when artists feel like calling attention to their hair. Why not play it up? Manga is all about creating a certain mood.

Adult Front View

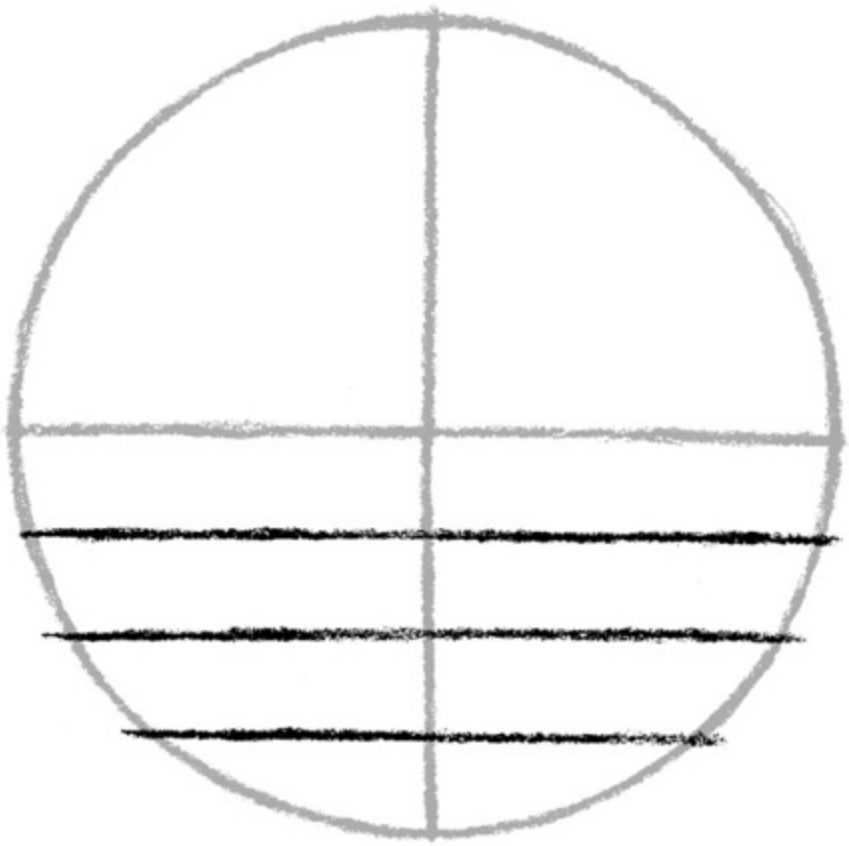
Manga stories tend to be dominated by youthful characters in high school or fantasy characters who are vaguely teen-aged. Still, that doesn’t mean you’ll never need to draw an older character.

Manga artists tend to regard the older characters as inhabiting a different world in terms of the way they are drawn. They often bear little resemblance to the kids at the heart of the story. Not only is the facial structure quite different, but there are all those wrinkles to contend with.

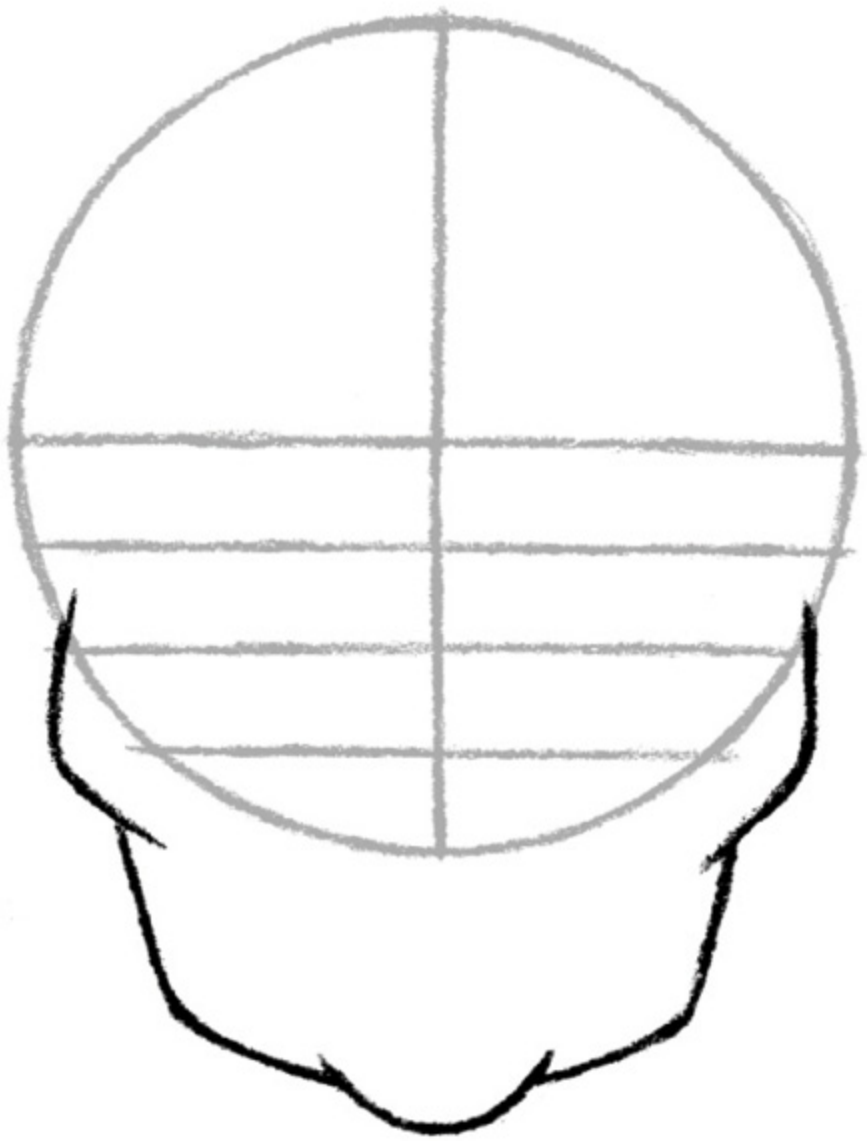
But never fear: given the right guidelines, drawing an older character need be no more difficult than drawing the young protagonists.



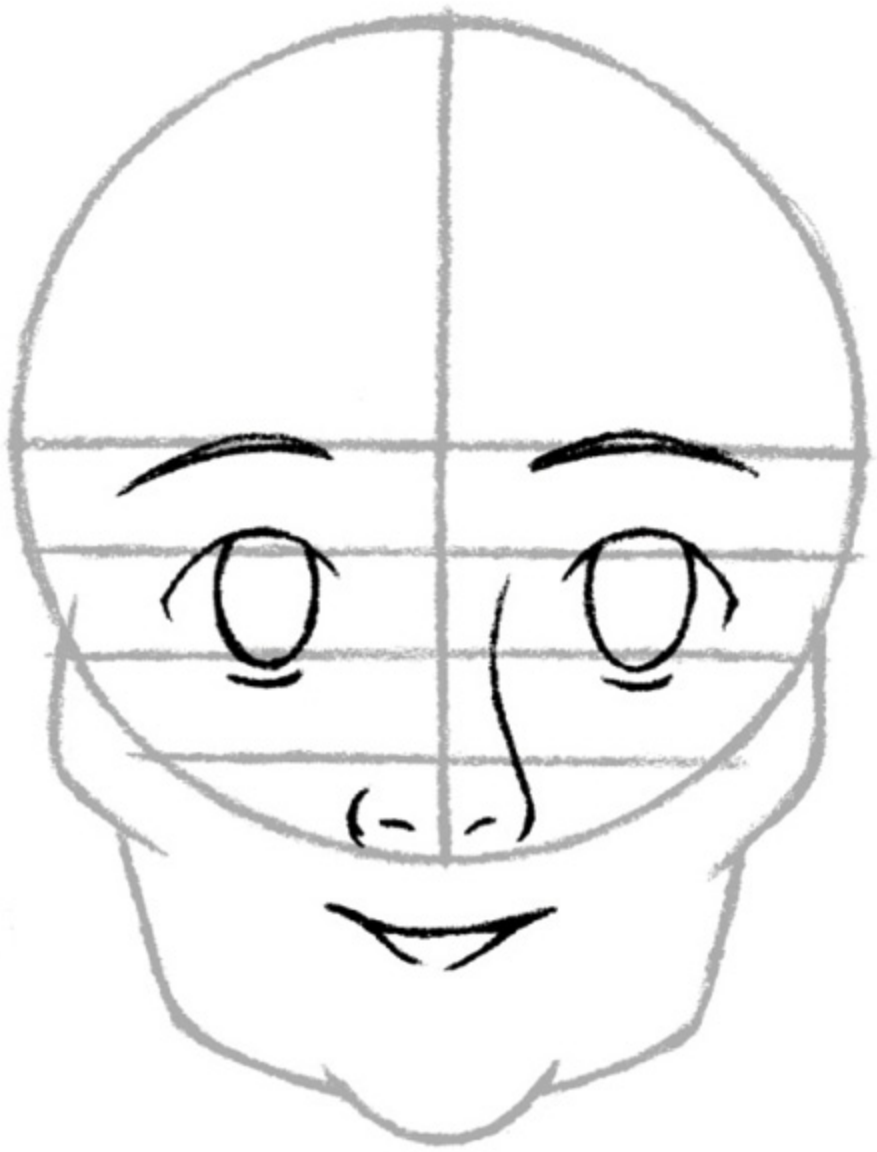
STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by a vertical and horizontal line.



STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



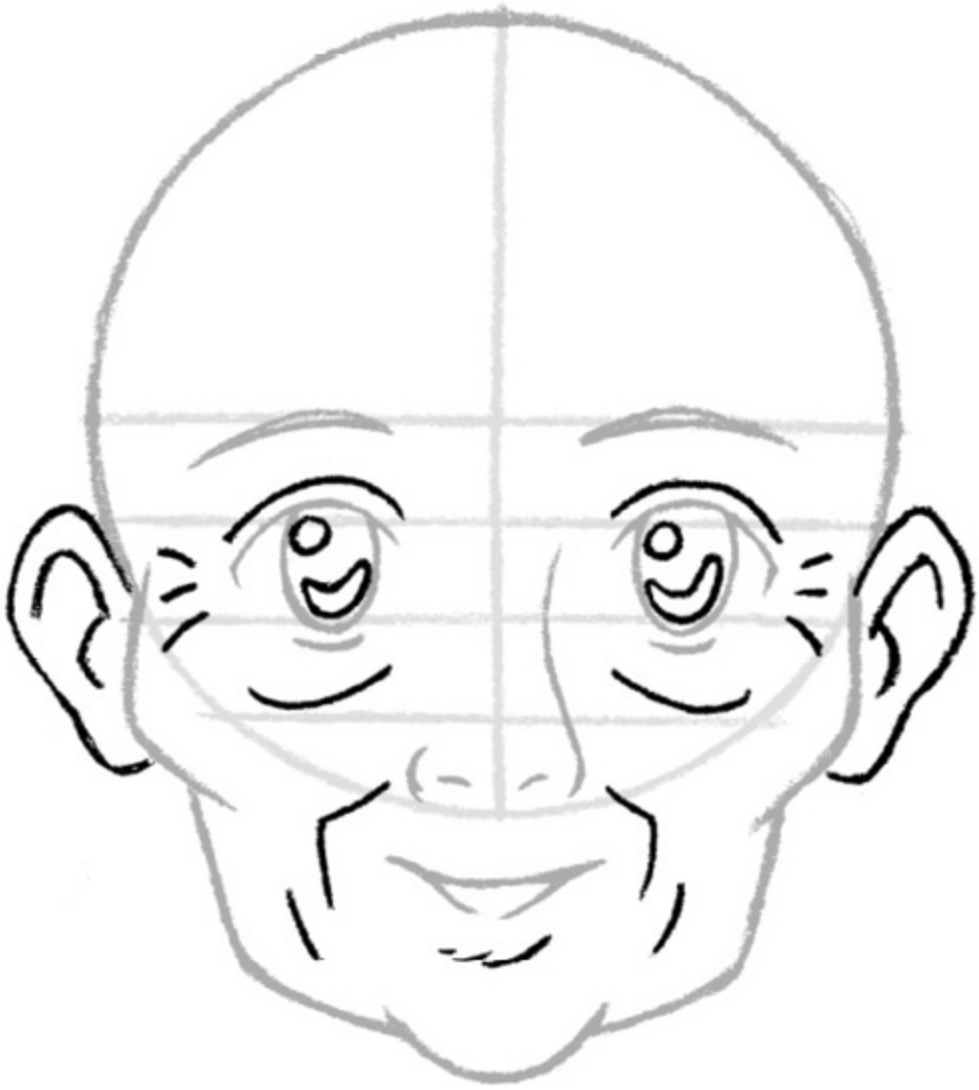
STEP 3 Outline the Cheeks and Jaw
The shape is considerably more complicated than that of the youthful face, so extra attention must be paid to get the lines right. Note the distance of the tip of the chin from the bottom of the circle: It’s roughly equal to a third of the diameter of the entire circle.



STEP 4 Place the Features

Note that the eyebrows and eyes are a full line higher on the face than in younger characters.

Probably the biggest difference between young and old manga characters is the depiction of the nose. It is much more fully rendered for older characters.



STEP 5 Add Details

Time to add ears, eye details and wrinkles. Note that simple crow’s-feet and a single line beneath each eye are enough to convey the age of the character.

Lines on either side of the mouth also add age.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck
Sketch the neck lines in and add the basic lines of the hair. A larger forehead is typical. The hairstyles of older characters are generally less flashy than those of younger characters.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add a shadow beneath the chin and more lines to define the hair. An elderly character will also have a line or two delineating the wrinkles of the neck.

STEP 8 Finish It

Ink the lines and let it dry, then erase the guidelines. You can keep it black and white, add some gray tones or color..

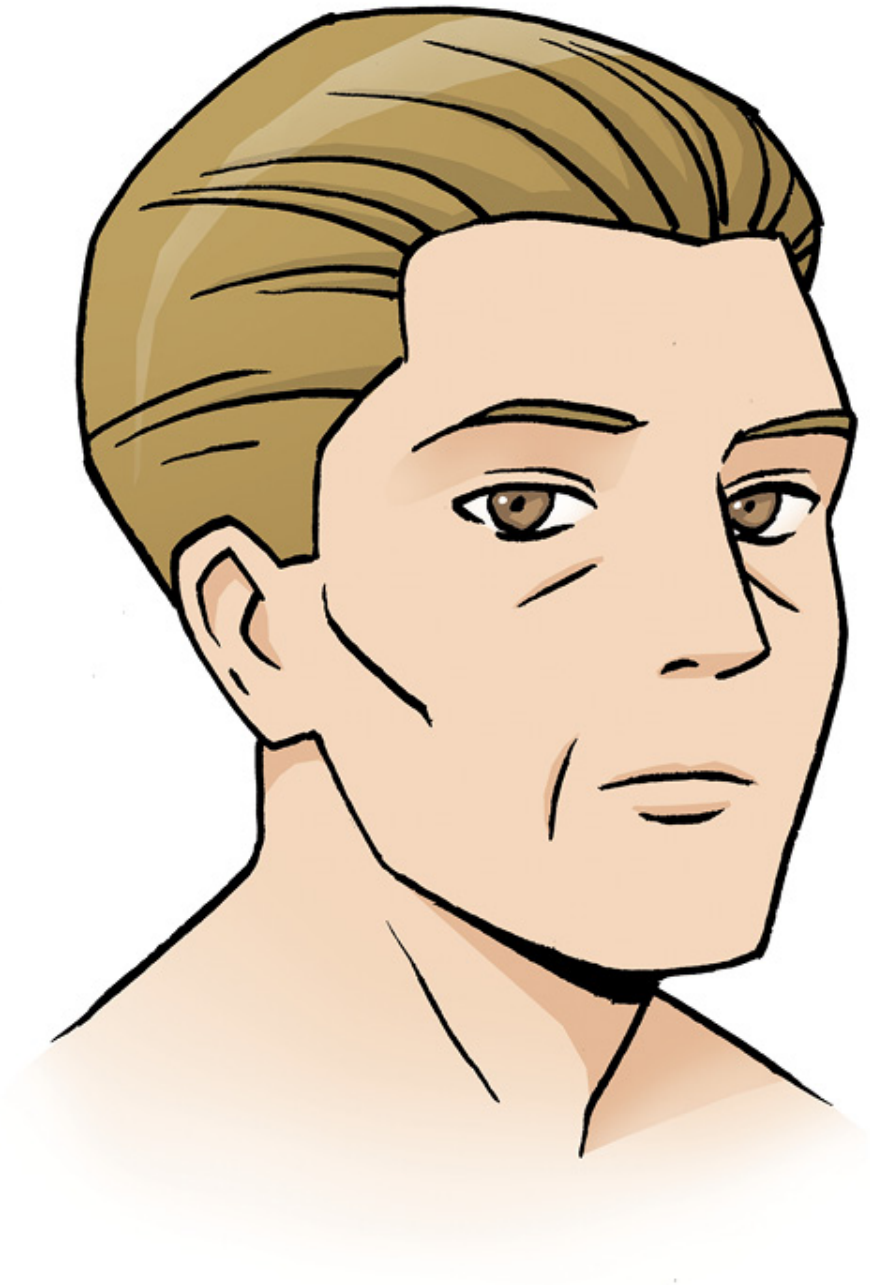
Less Is More

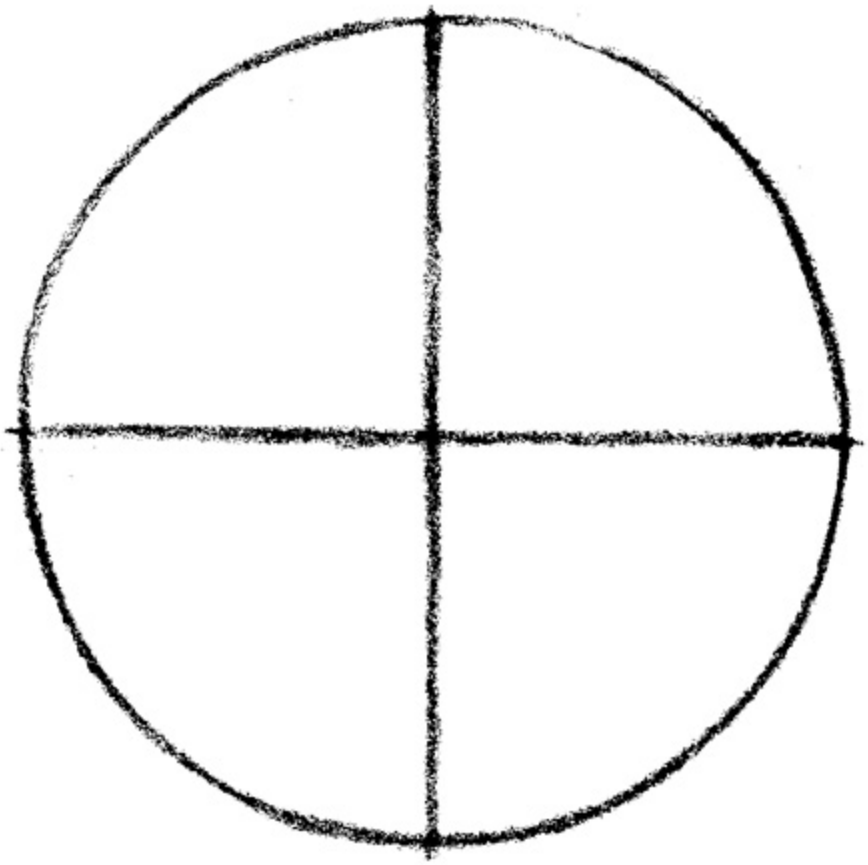
Adding lines to the sides of a character’s mouth ages them. Be careful with details for any character you want to look youthful.

Adult Three-Quarter View

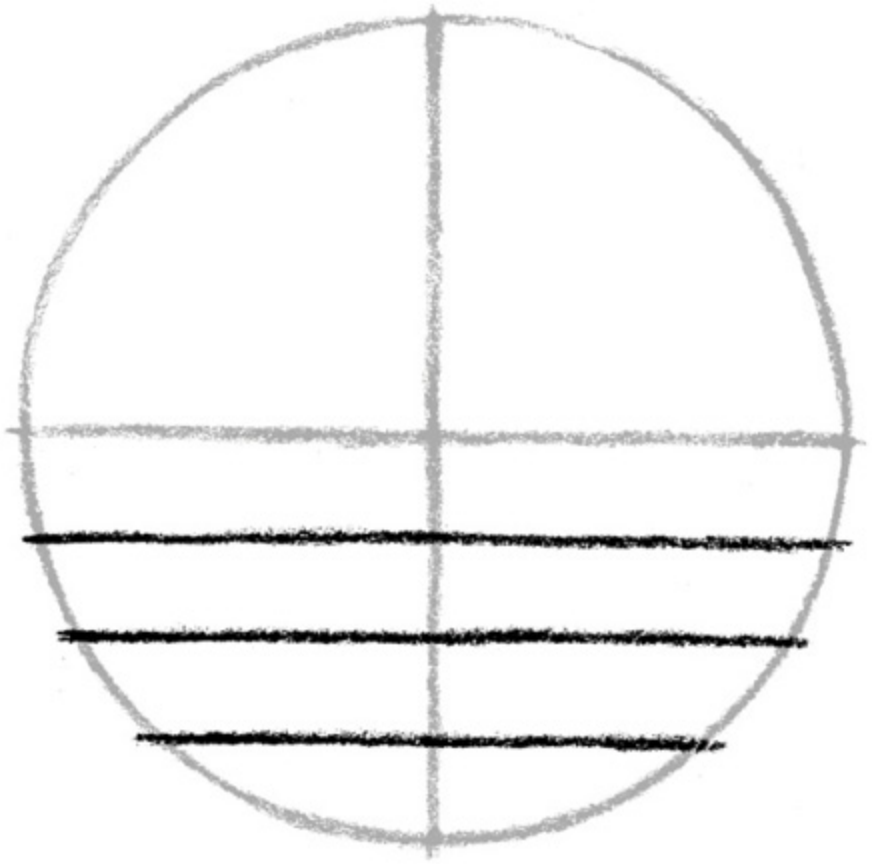
Just because you’re drawing an older character doesn’t mean they have to look like they’re ready for the retirement home. Sometimes you want to draw someone who simply looks slightly older than your teenaged protagonist.

With these characters you can’t rely on wrinkles and gray hair to show their age, so it’s going to be more about the facial structure. Most manga artists opt to depict grown-up characters with faces that are considerably closer to real human anatomy. This means that starting out with proper guidelines is more important than ever.

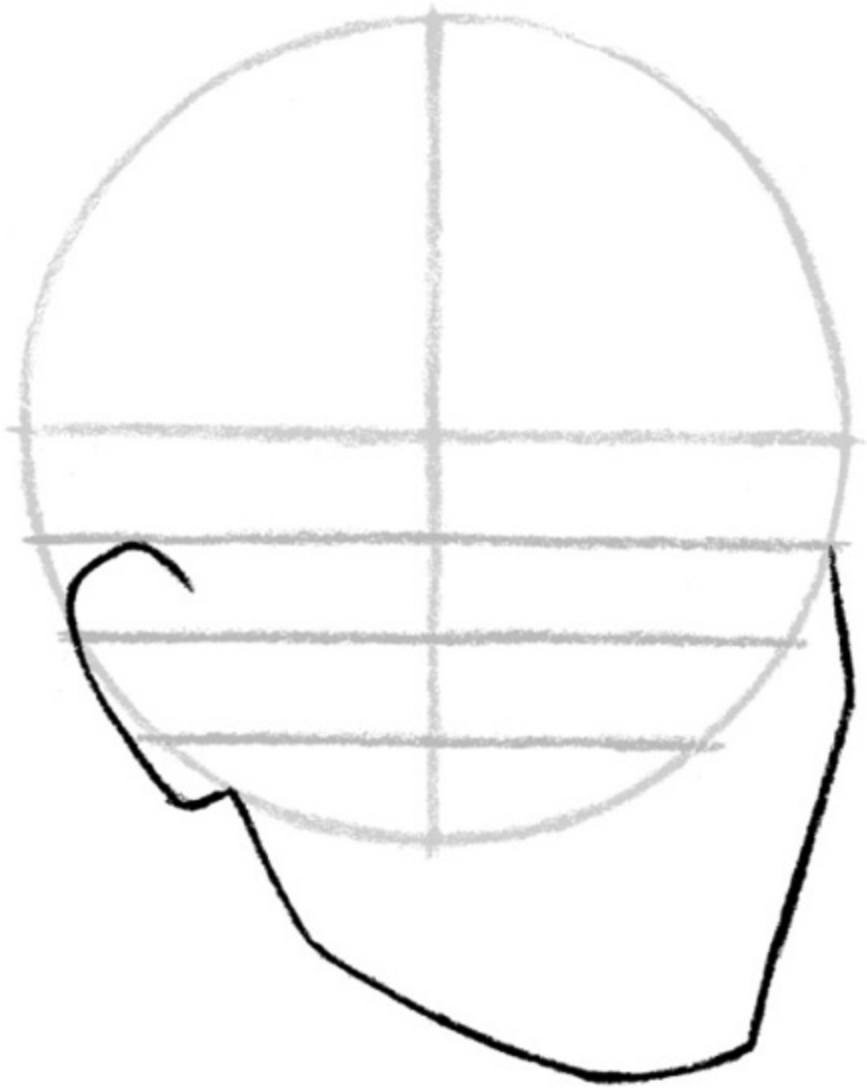




STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by vertical and horizontal lines.

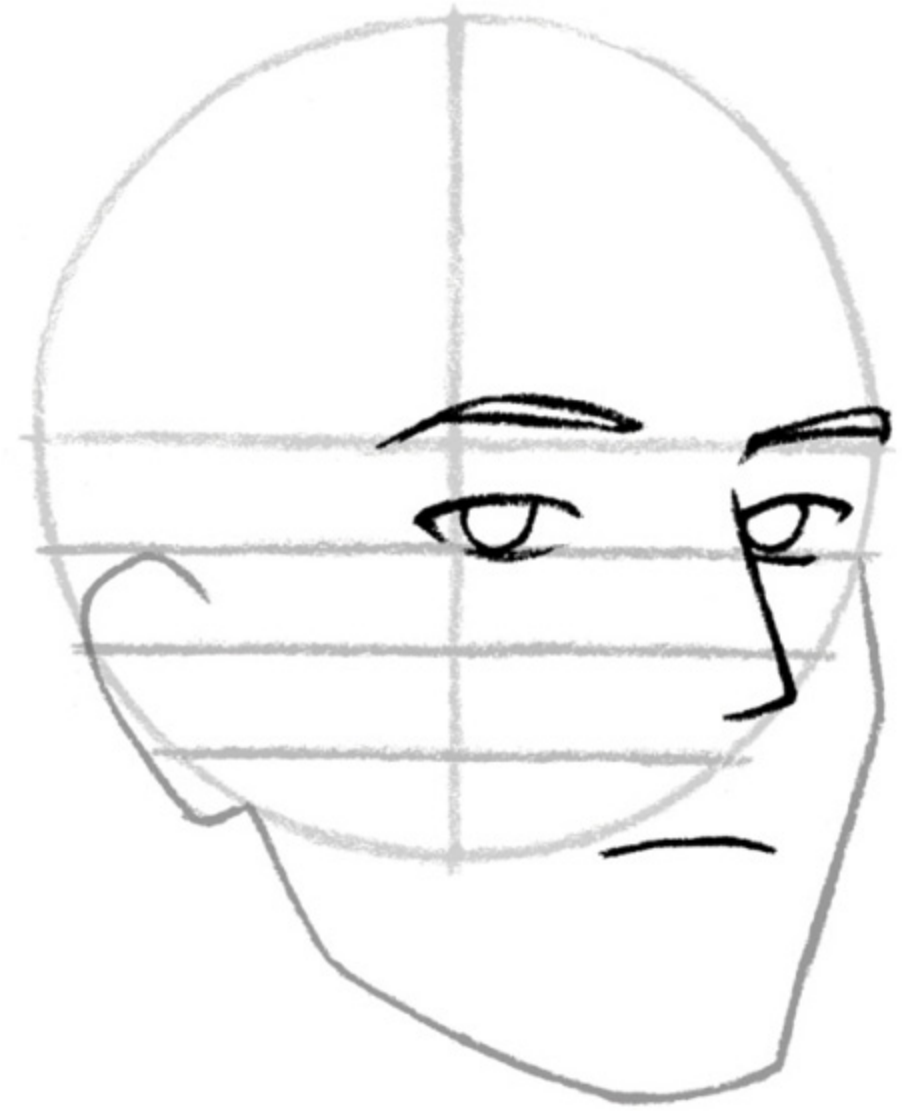


STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



STEP 3 Outline the Jaw and Ear

The upper cheek begins where the second horizontal line intersects the circle. Observe the unusual white shape created between the edge of the circle and the lines of the jaw.

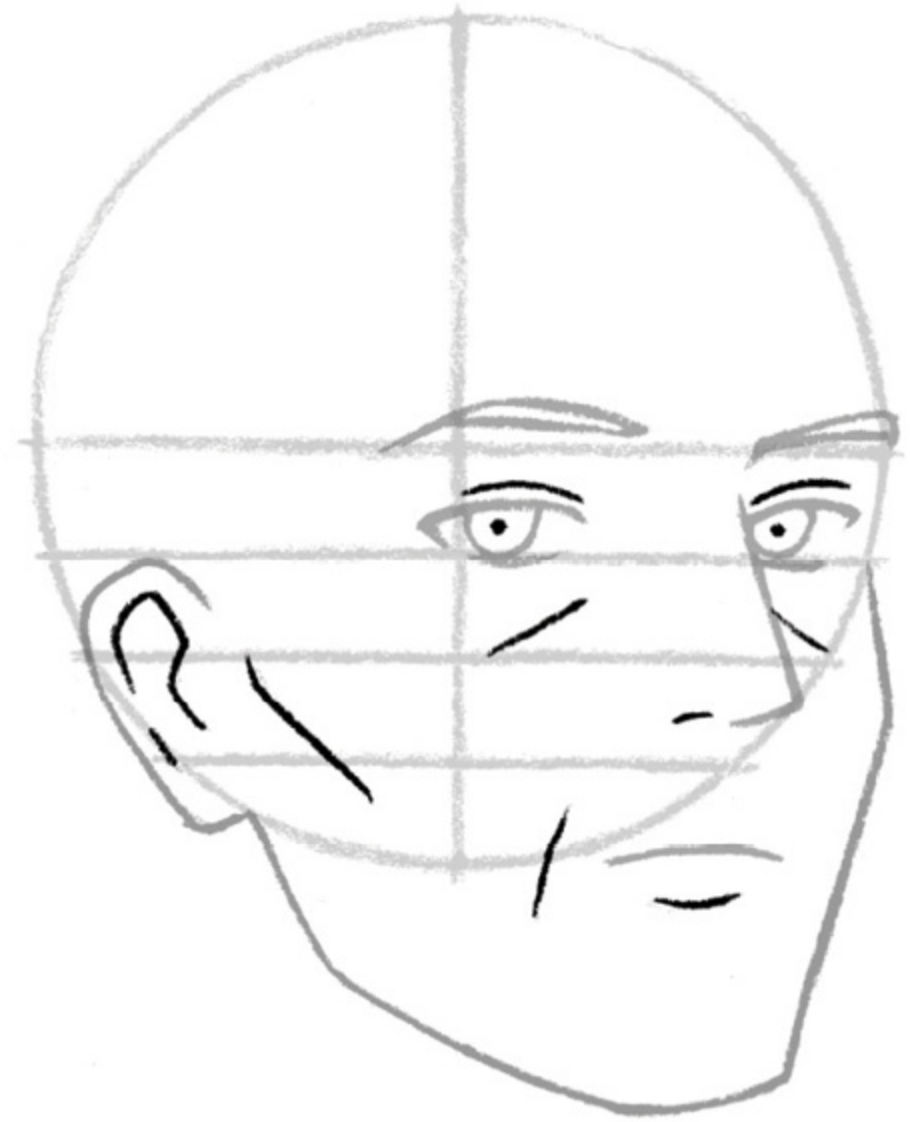


STEP 4 Place the Features

Add the eyebrows, eyes, nose and mouth. The iris of the eye on the left touches the vertical line. Use that to place the left eyebrow.

The tip of the nose falls between the third and fourth horizontal lines on the edge of the circle.

Place the mouth a little less than halfway between the chin and nose, just outside the edge of the circle.



STEP 5 Add Details

One line below each eye suggests maturity without making him look grandfatherly.

Add lines defining the cheek bones and the curves of the ears.

A line below the mouth defines the lips while one on the side adds maturity.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck
The lines of the hair curve up and back to follow the surface of the head. A single line on the neck is not only

anatomically accurate but also adds a few years to the character.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune

Add a few more lines to the hair and a shadow beneath the chin. I’ve made my character clean shaven, but many

manga artists give fatherly characters a mustache or beard to separate them from the youthful protagonists.

STEP 8 Finish It

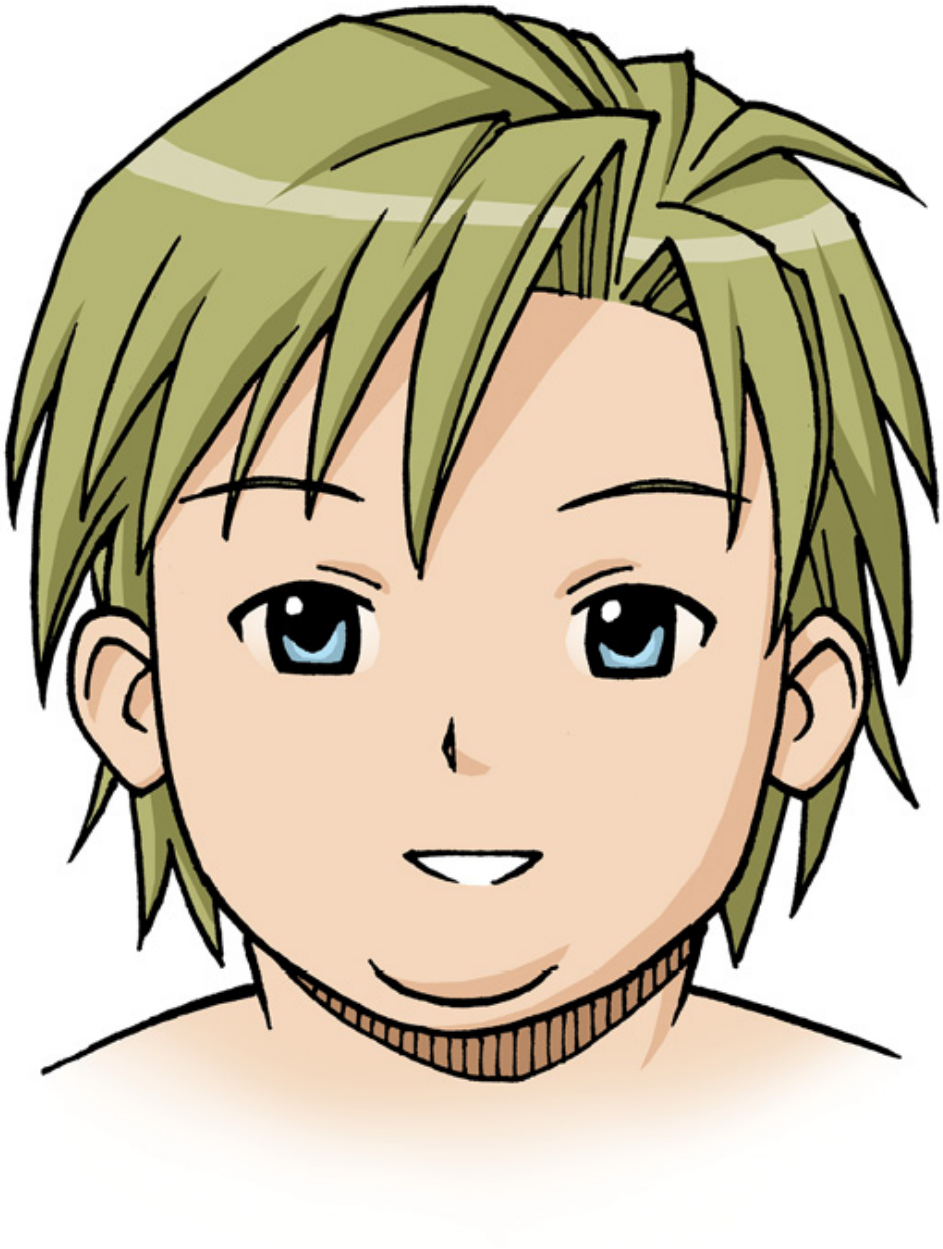
Ink the lines and let it dry, then erase the guidelines. You can keep it black and white, or add some gray tones or color.

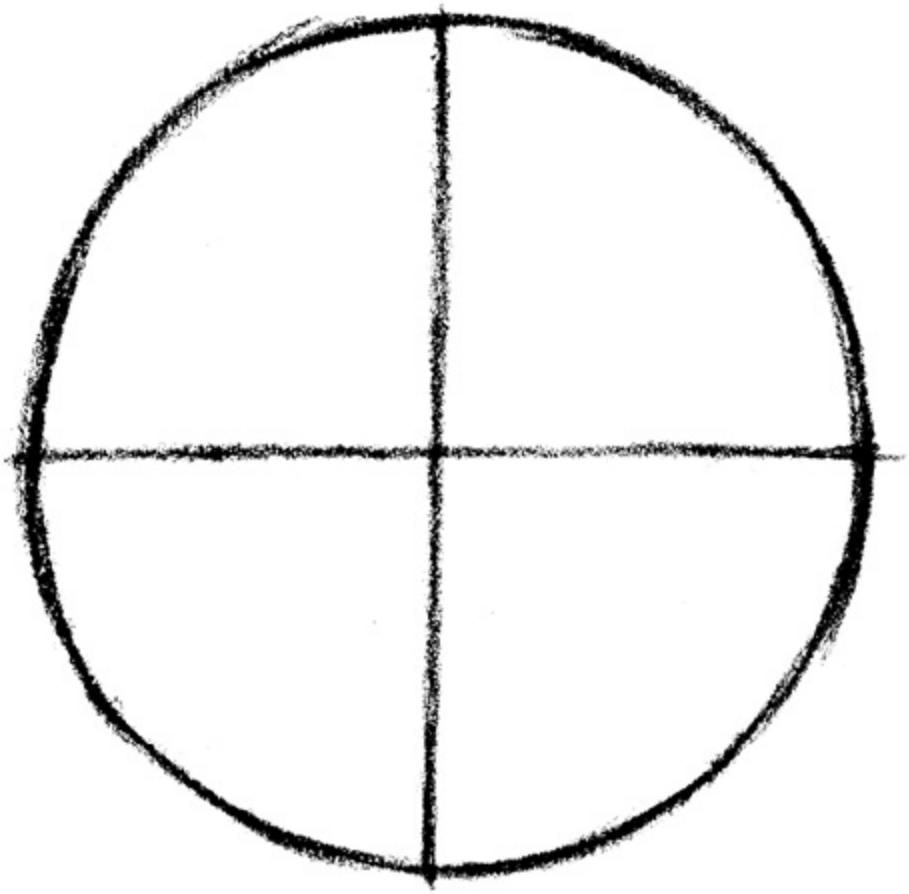
Find a bonus demonstration of an older character’s profile online at impact-books.com/mastering-manga.

Fuller-Figured Character Front View

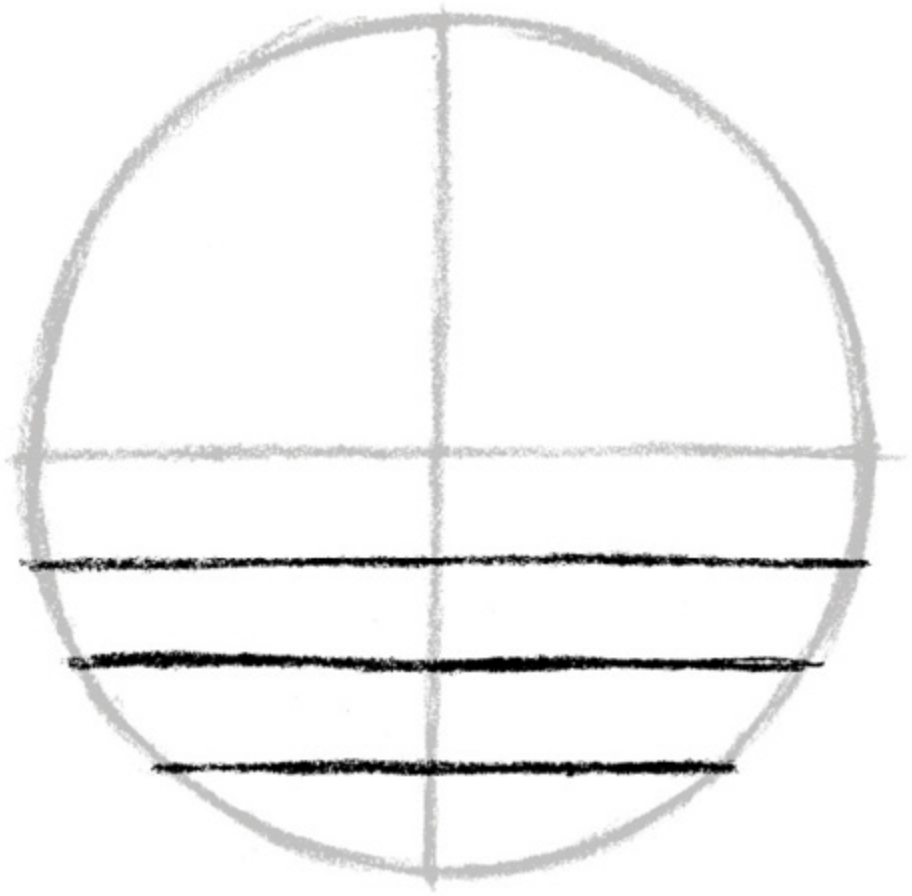
Just as older characters rarely get the limelight, fuller-figured characters are generally sidelined or left out. But this doesn’t mean you’ll never want to include such characters in your stories.

Cartoonists have long rendered fuller-figured characters in an exaggerated, humorous way, but that is not what I’m interested in. I’d like to present a respectful way of depicting fuller-figured characters, allowing them to be among the main characters of a story rather than forcing them into the background as comic relief.

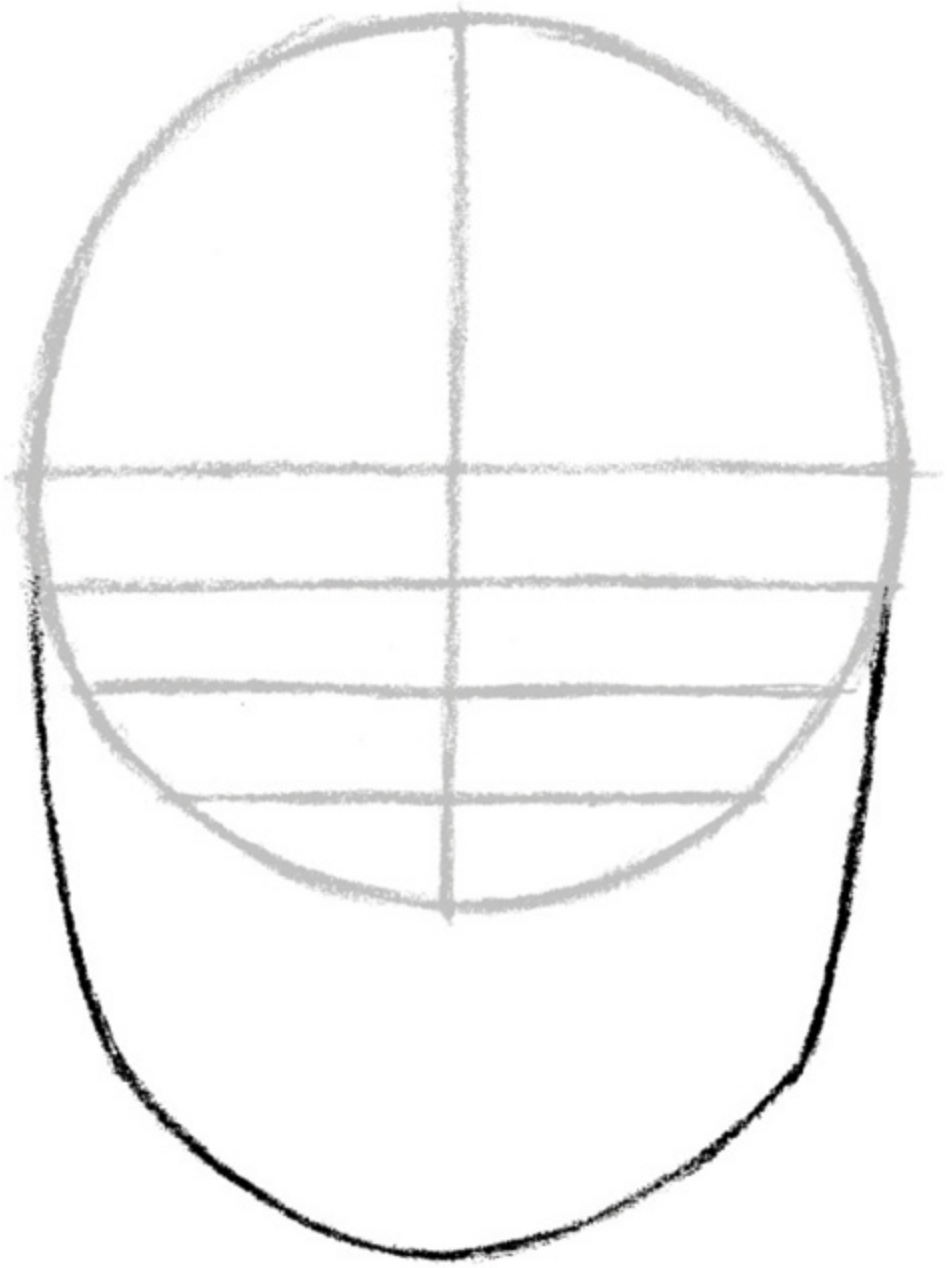




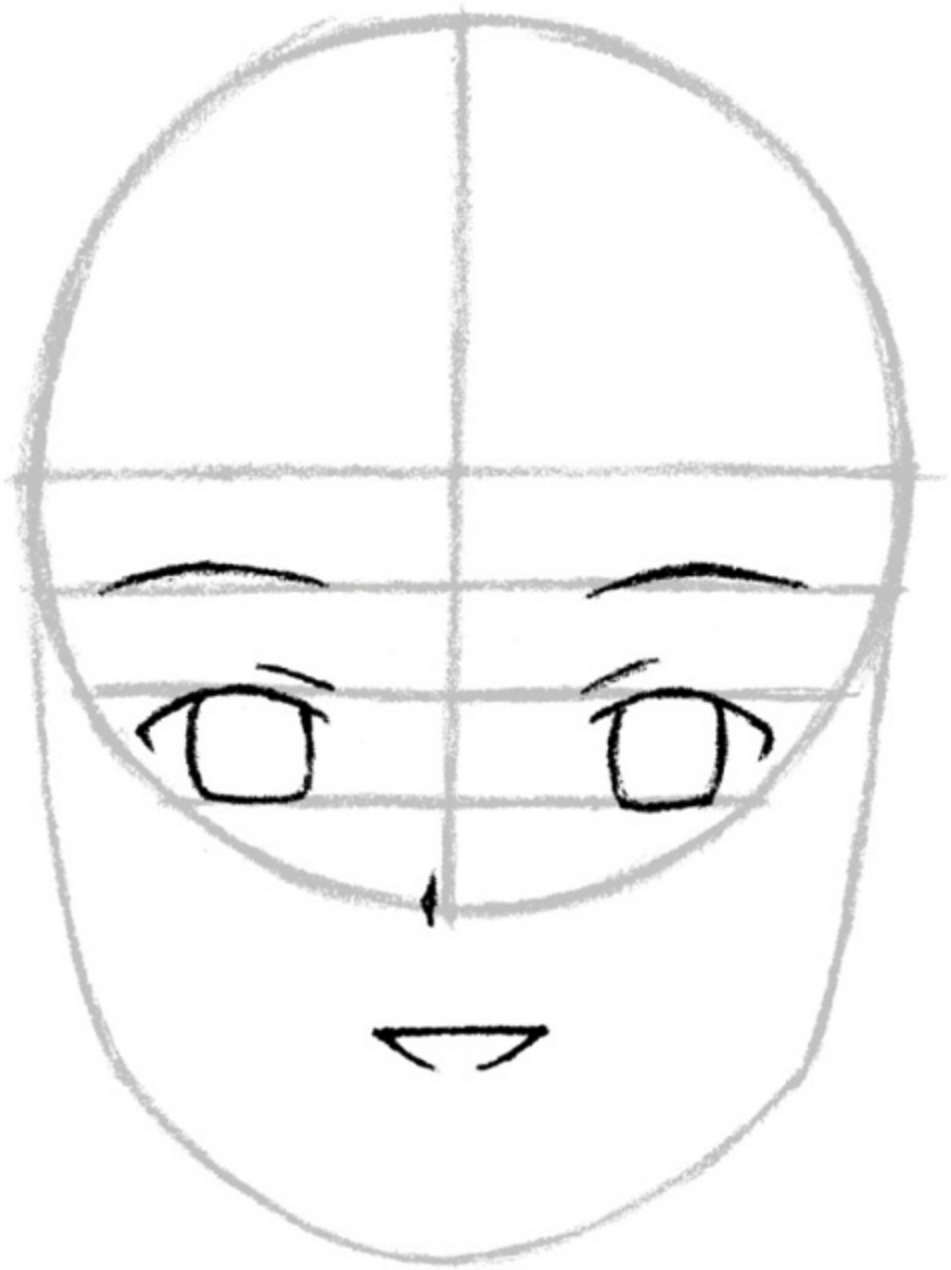
STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by vertical and horizontal lines.



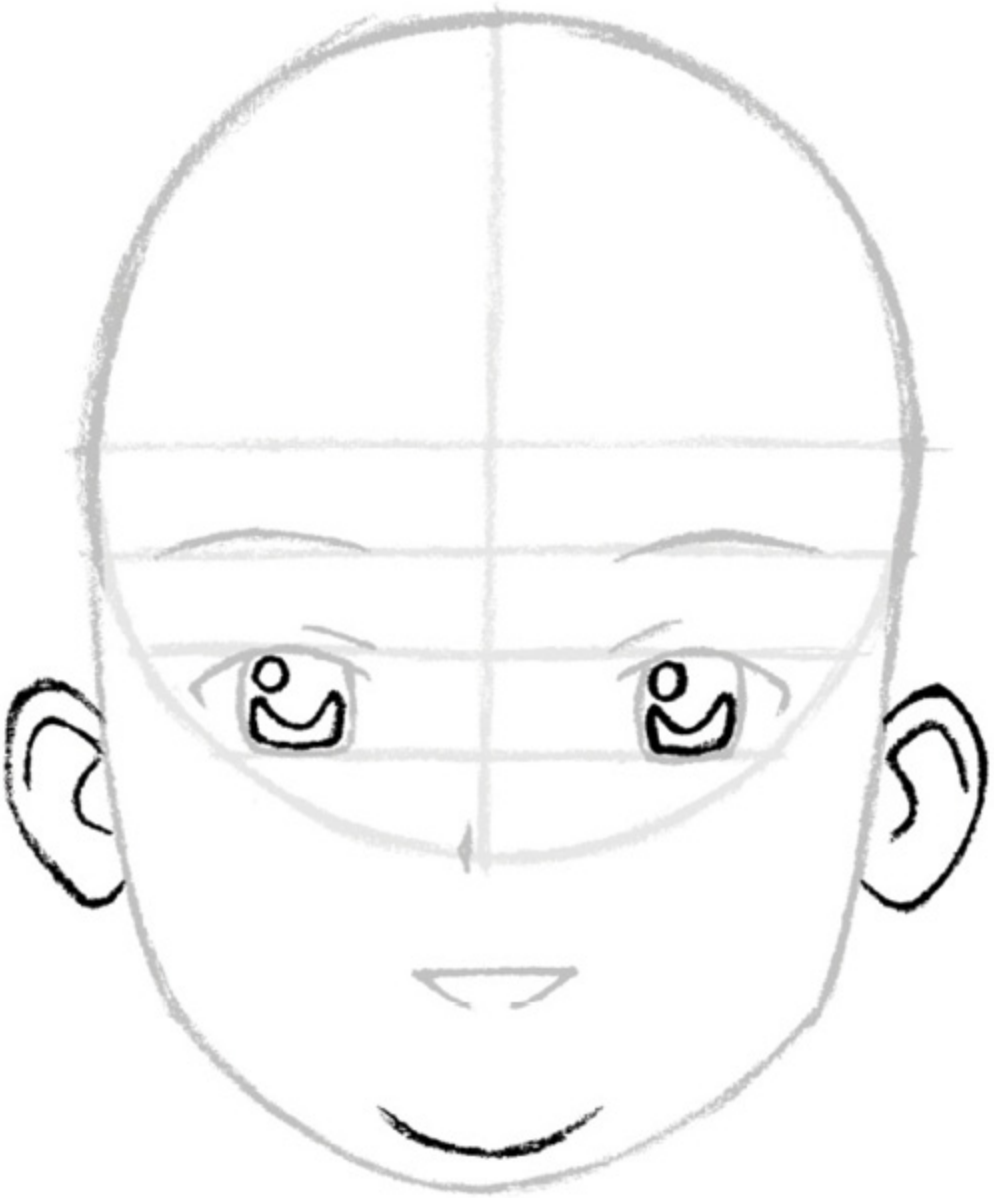
STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



STEP 3 Outline the Jaw
This is the main difference between the standard manga face and a fuller face. Instead of a point, the chin curves at the bottom.



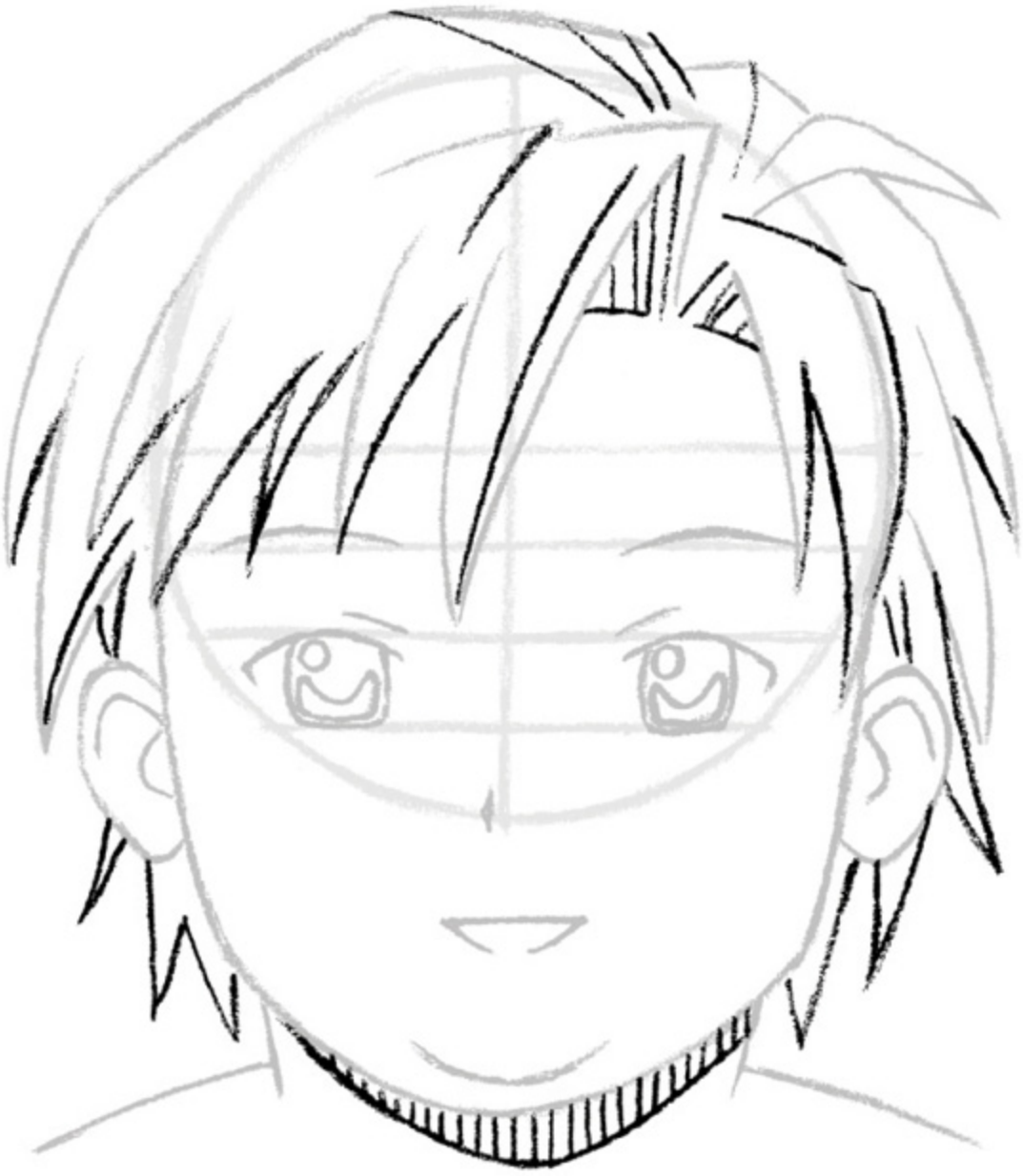
STEP 4 Place the Features
Add the eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth. The locations of all these facial features are more or less identical to their locations on the standard manga face.



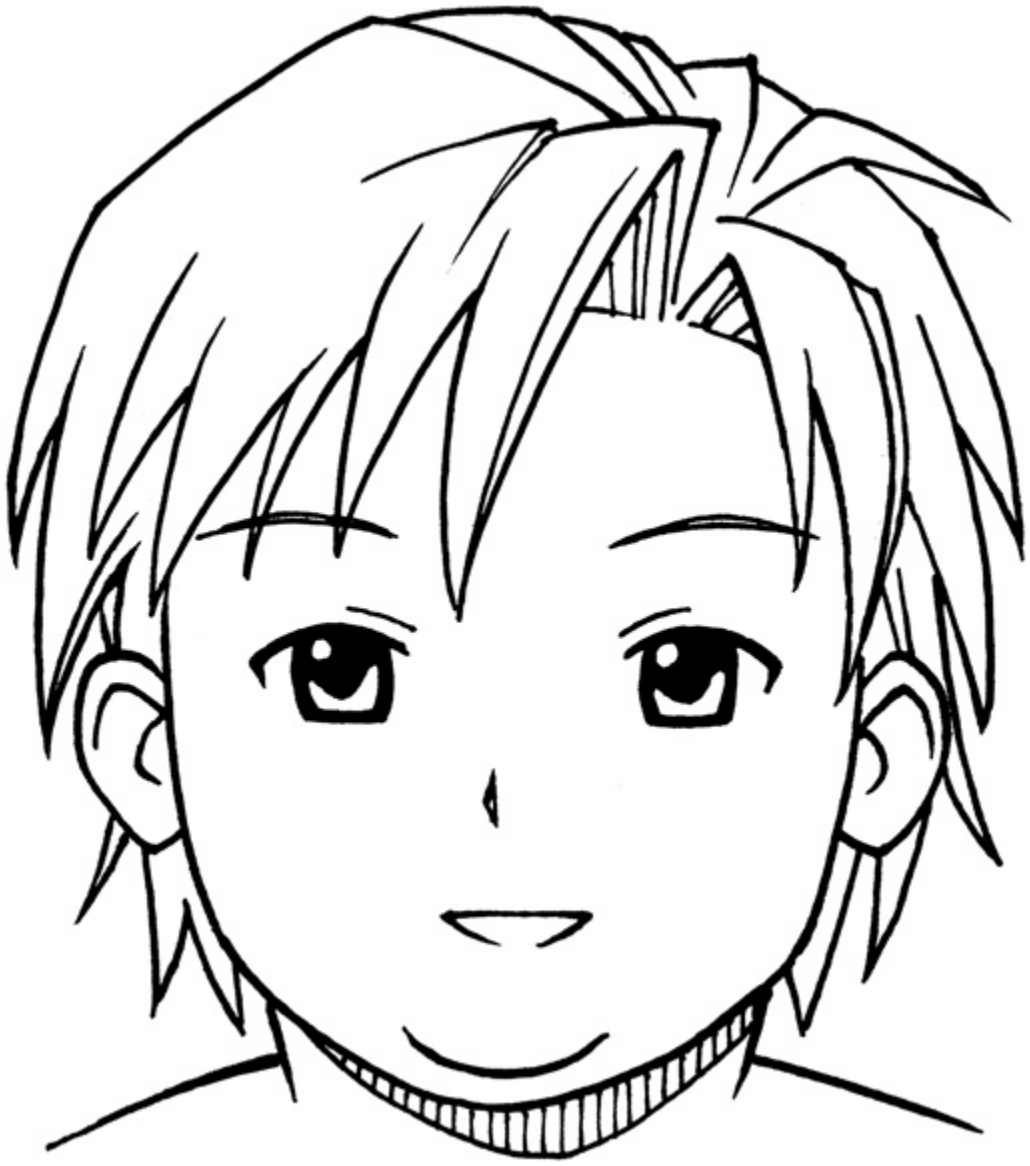
STEP 5 Add Details

Add the ears, details to the eyes and a double chin line near the bottom. Not all fuller-figured people have double chins, but it can be a good way to define your character.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck
The neck is considerably wider than that of the standard manga character.



STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add an indication of shadow beneath the chin and more details to the hair.



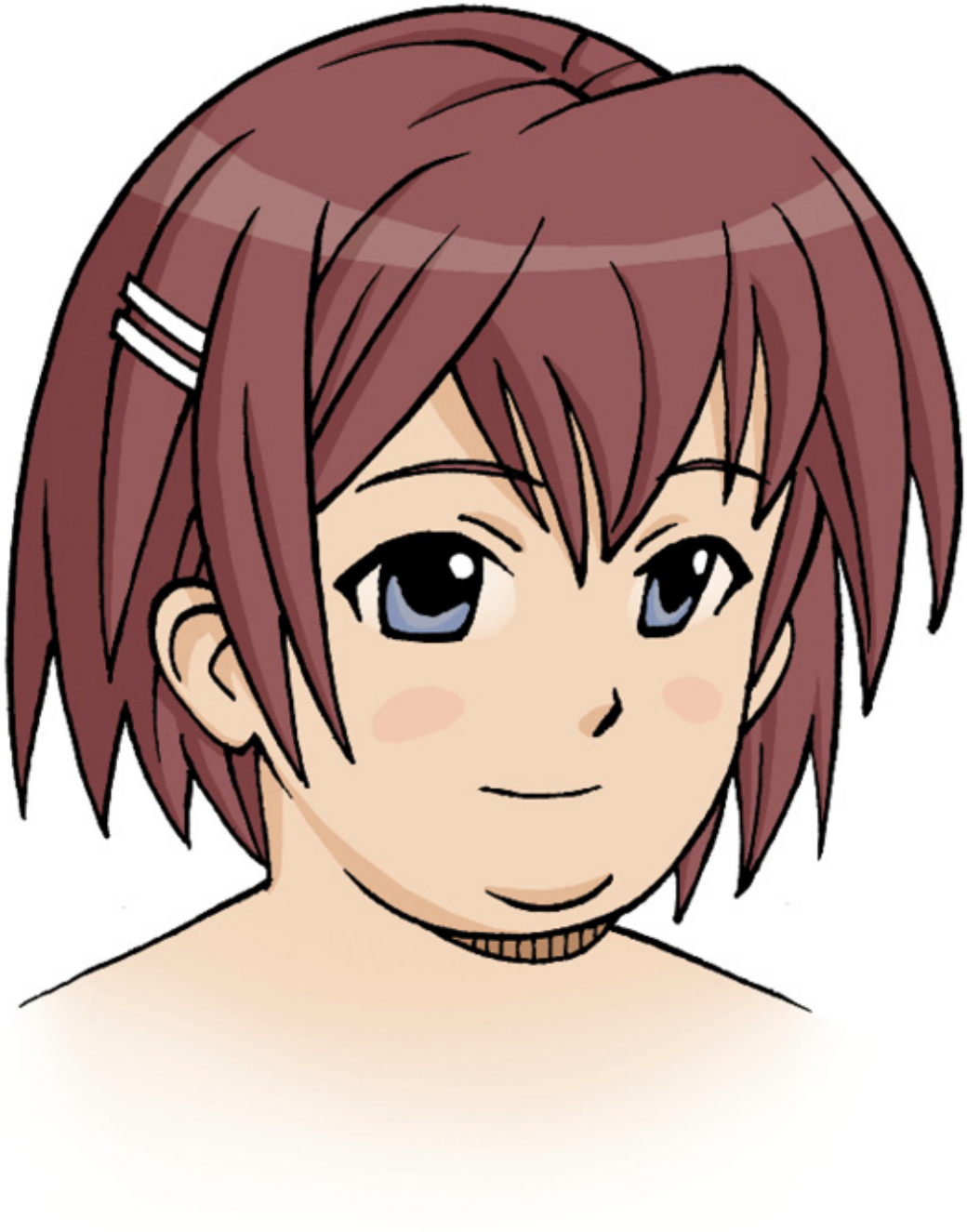
STEP 8 Finish It

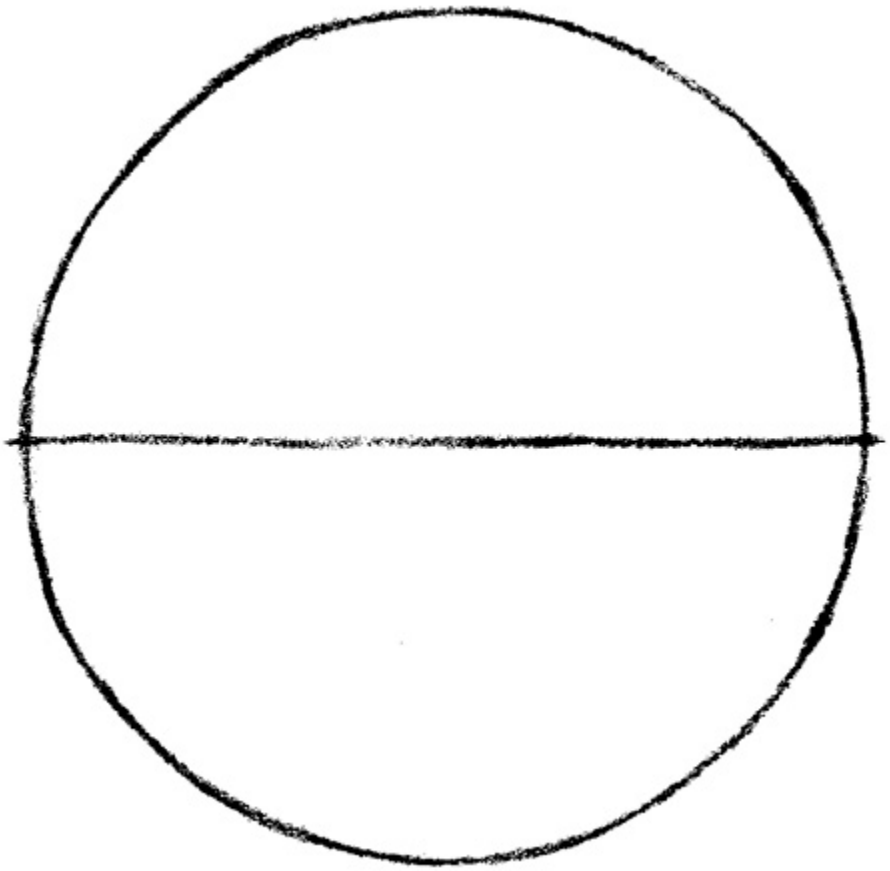
Ink the lines, let it dry, then erase guidelines. You can keep it black and white, and add some gray tones or color.

Fuller-Figured Character ¾ View

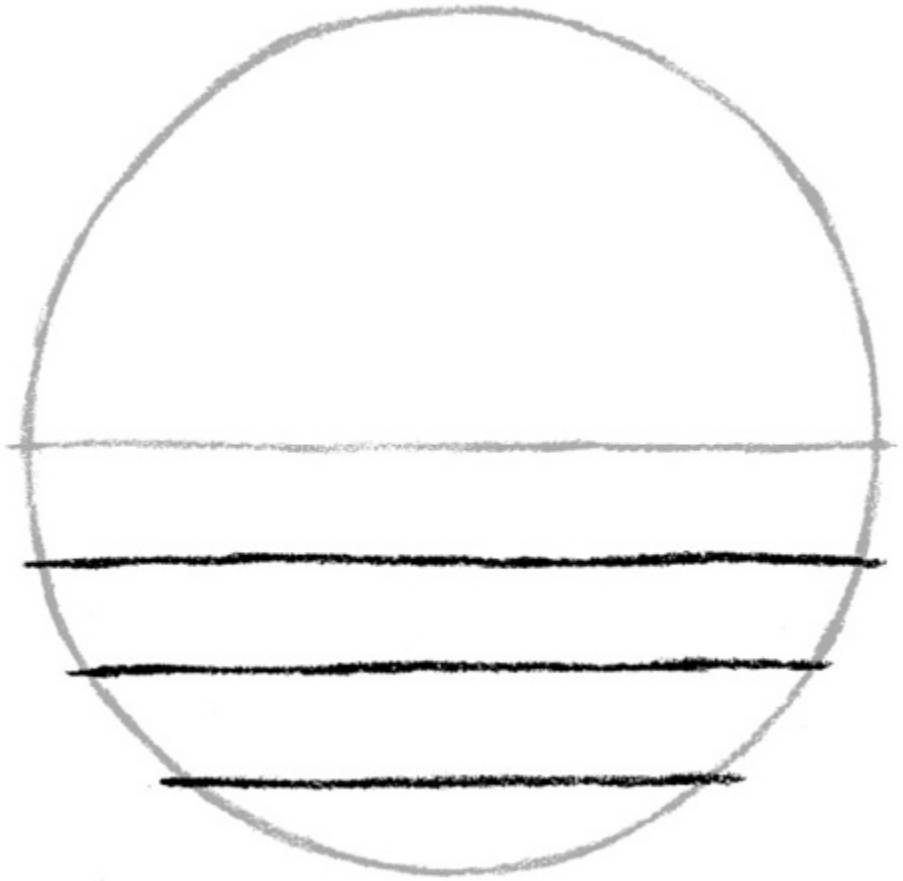
The three-quarter view is the one we see in manga again and again. There’s just something more natural and appealing about this point of view.

In essence it is only the shape of the jaw, not the facial features, that changes in comparison to the earlier three-quarter view lesson. It’s a tricky line to draw, though. At what point does the double chin become comical and overdone? I advise approaching it with subtlety.

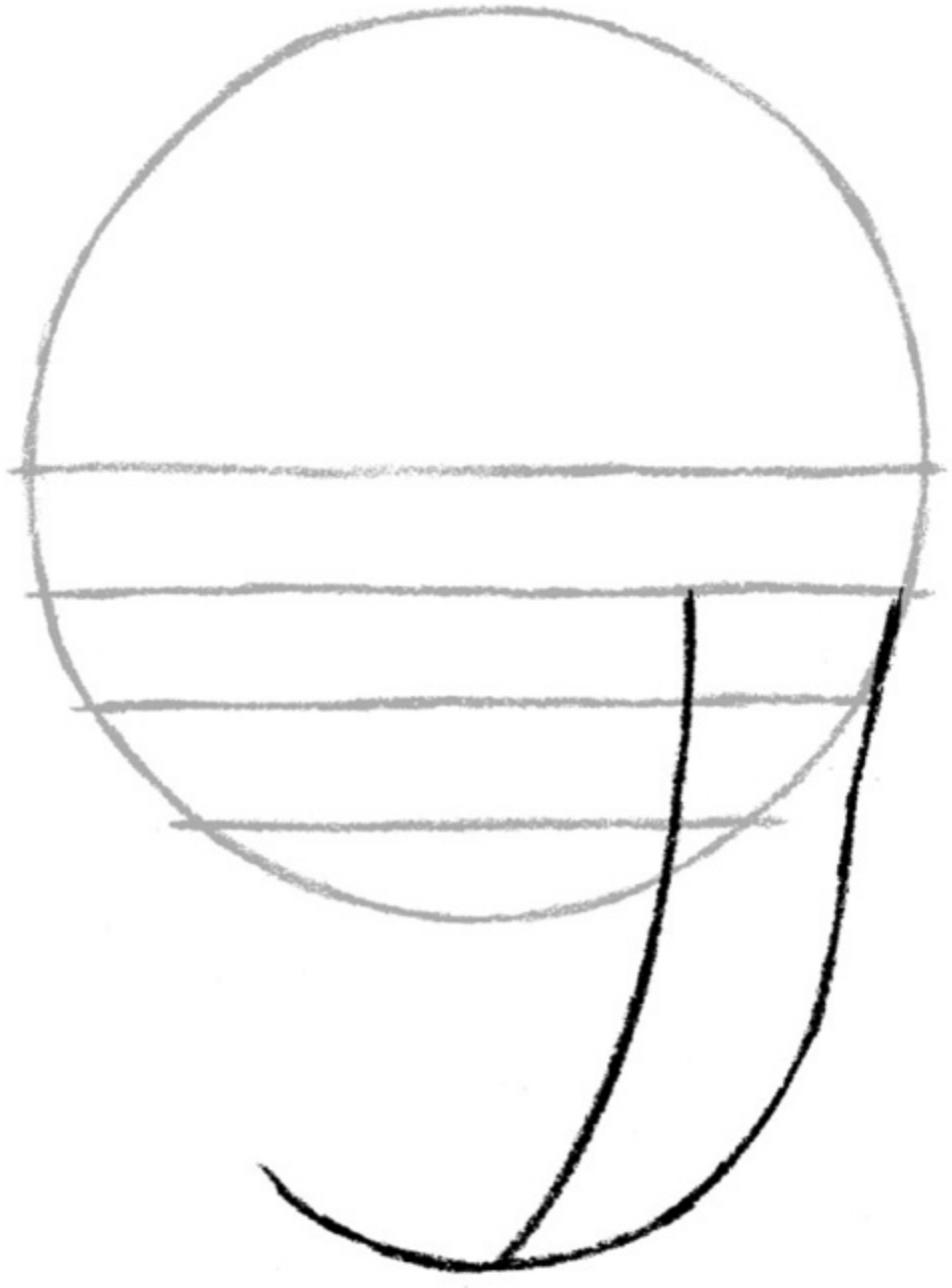




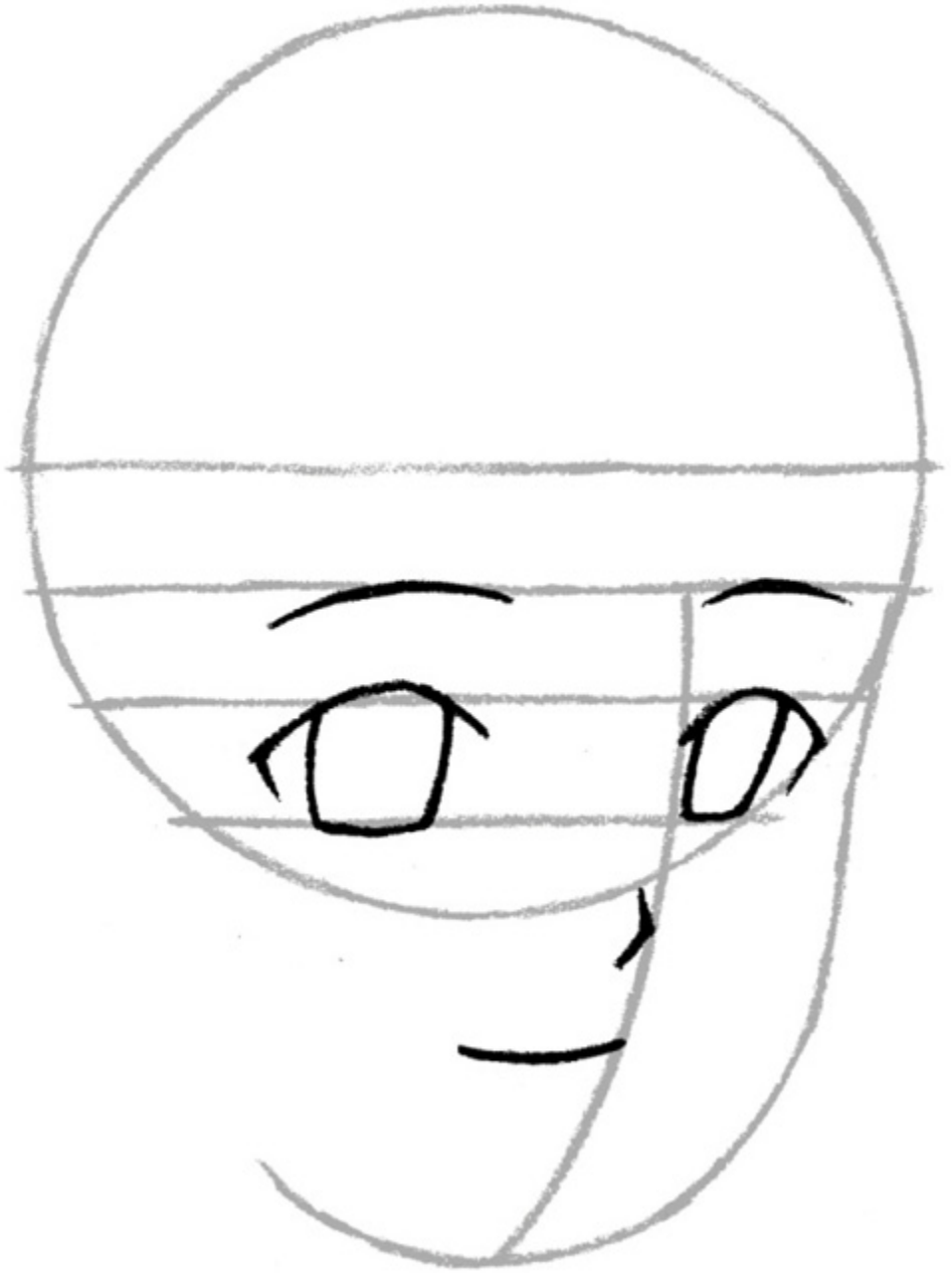
STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by a horizontal line.



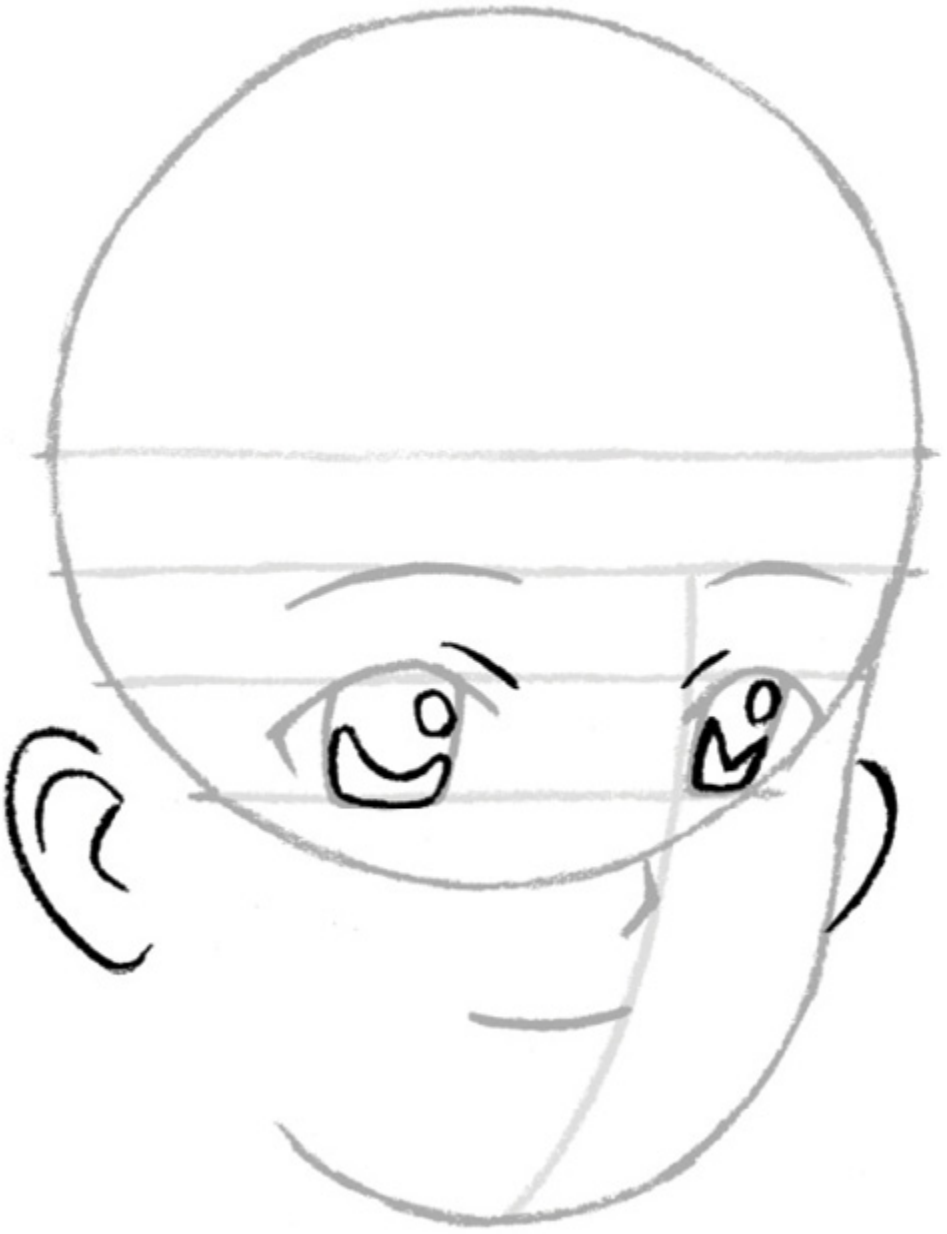
STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four equal sections by adding three more lines.



STEP 3 Outline the Jaw
Like the front view, this chin curves. Draw a second curving line from the chin up to the second of the four horizontal lines. Take care to maintain the distance between this line and the outside line.



STEP 4 Place the Features
Add the eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth. The locations of all these facial features are more or less identical to their locations on the standard manga face, but the distance between the mouth and the chin line is markedly different.



STEP 5 Add Details

Add the ears and details to the eyes. The highlights will make the eyes shiny. The little dash above each eye denotes the folding of the eyelid.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck
The line of the neck begins at the base of the ear, and there is also a short line here suggesting the edge of the cheek. This hairstyle is, of course, up to you..

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add an indication of shadow beneath the chin and more details to the hair.

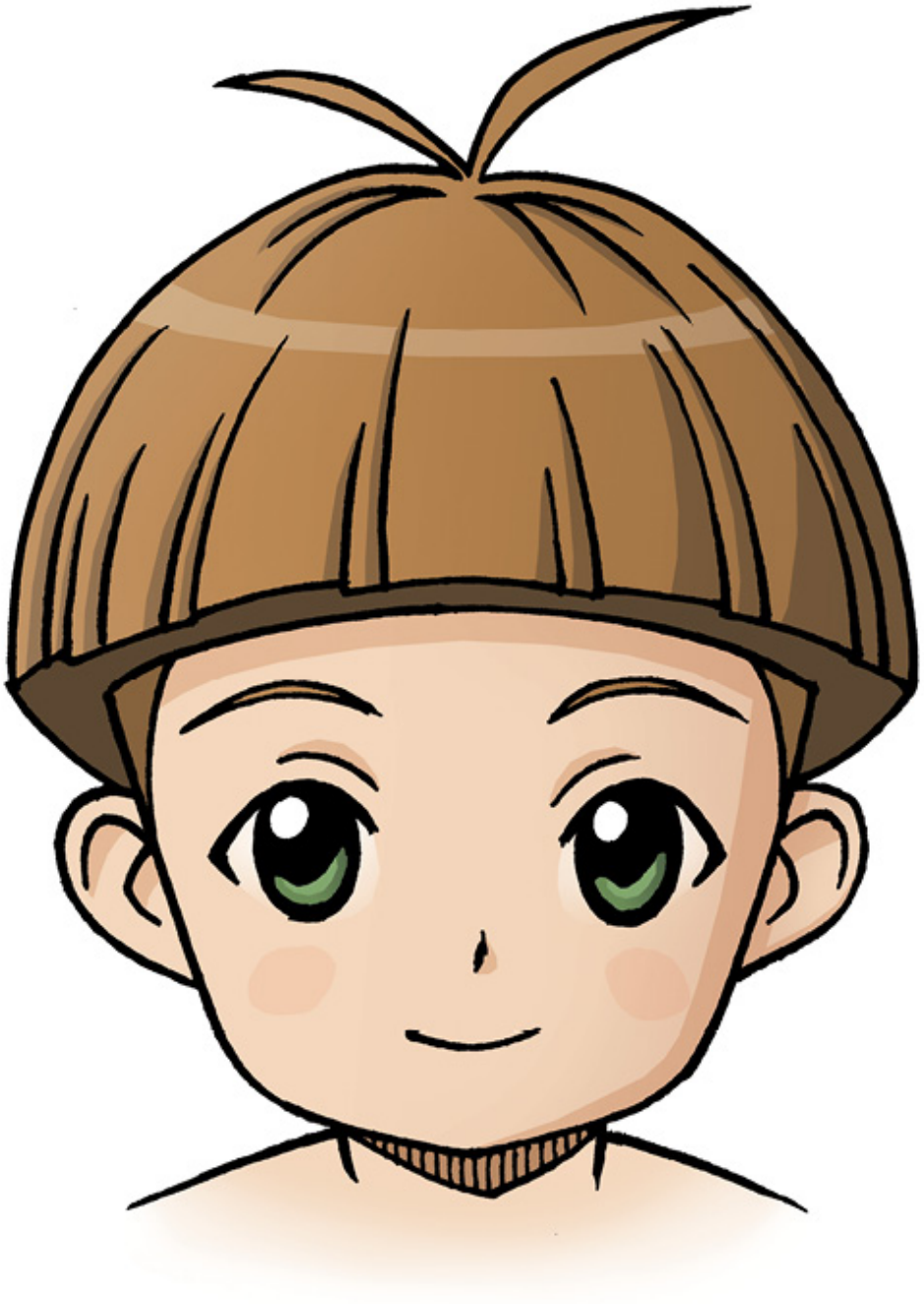
STEP 8 Finish It

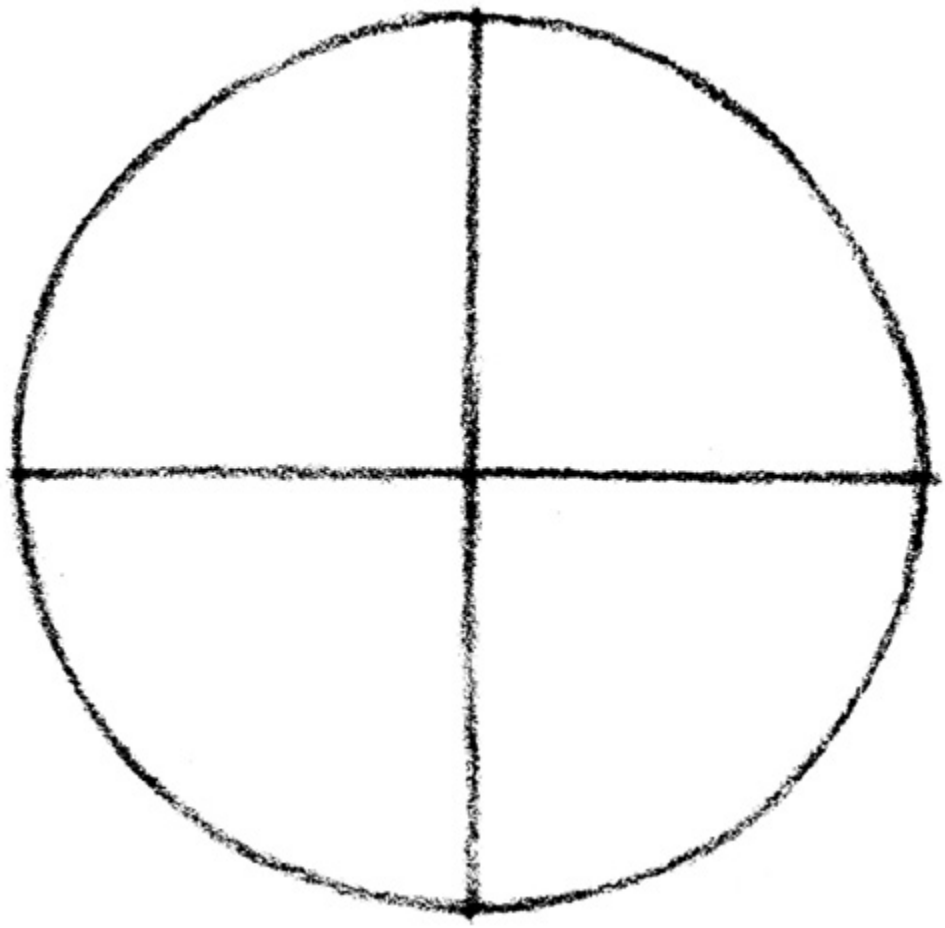
Ink the lines and let it dry, then erase the guidelines. You can keep it black and white, and add some gray tones or color.

Child Front View

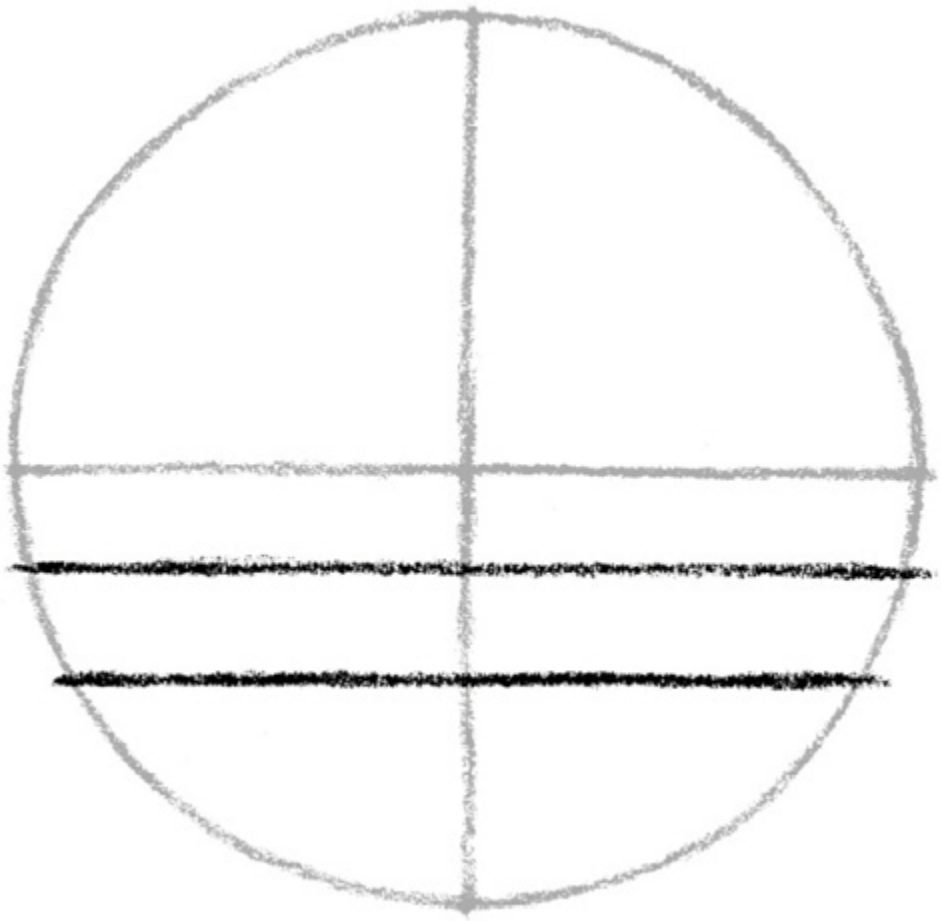
Youthful manga characters intended to be teens (or even adults) are often drawn with oversized eyes that make them reminiscent of children. So what do you do when the character you’re drawing is supposed to be a *real* child?

Relax. The main thing is to push things a little further than you do with your teen characters in terms of the eyes, cheeks and hair. As always, guidelines will give you your best chance of drawing the character consistently from one panel to the next.

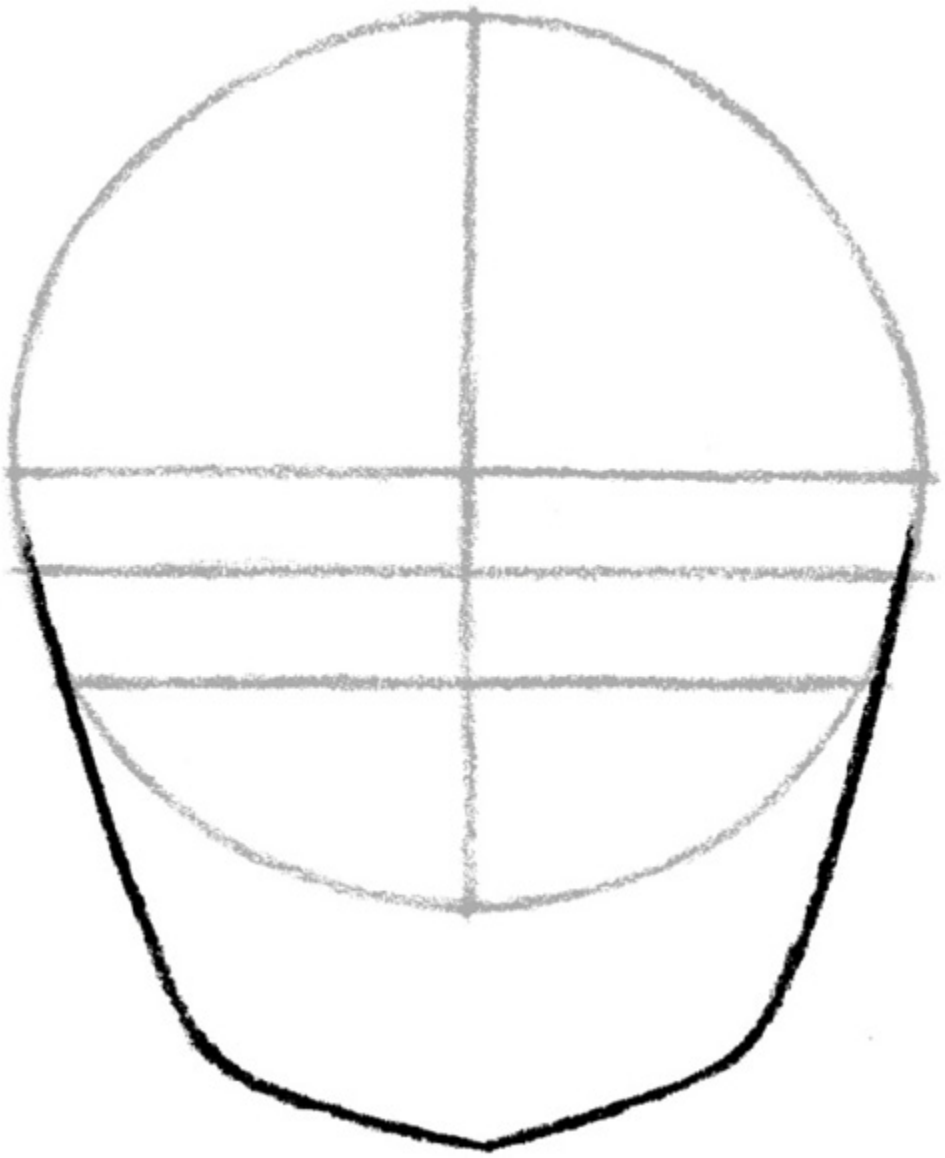




STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by vertical and horizontal lines.

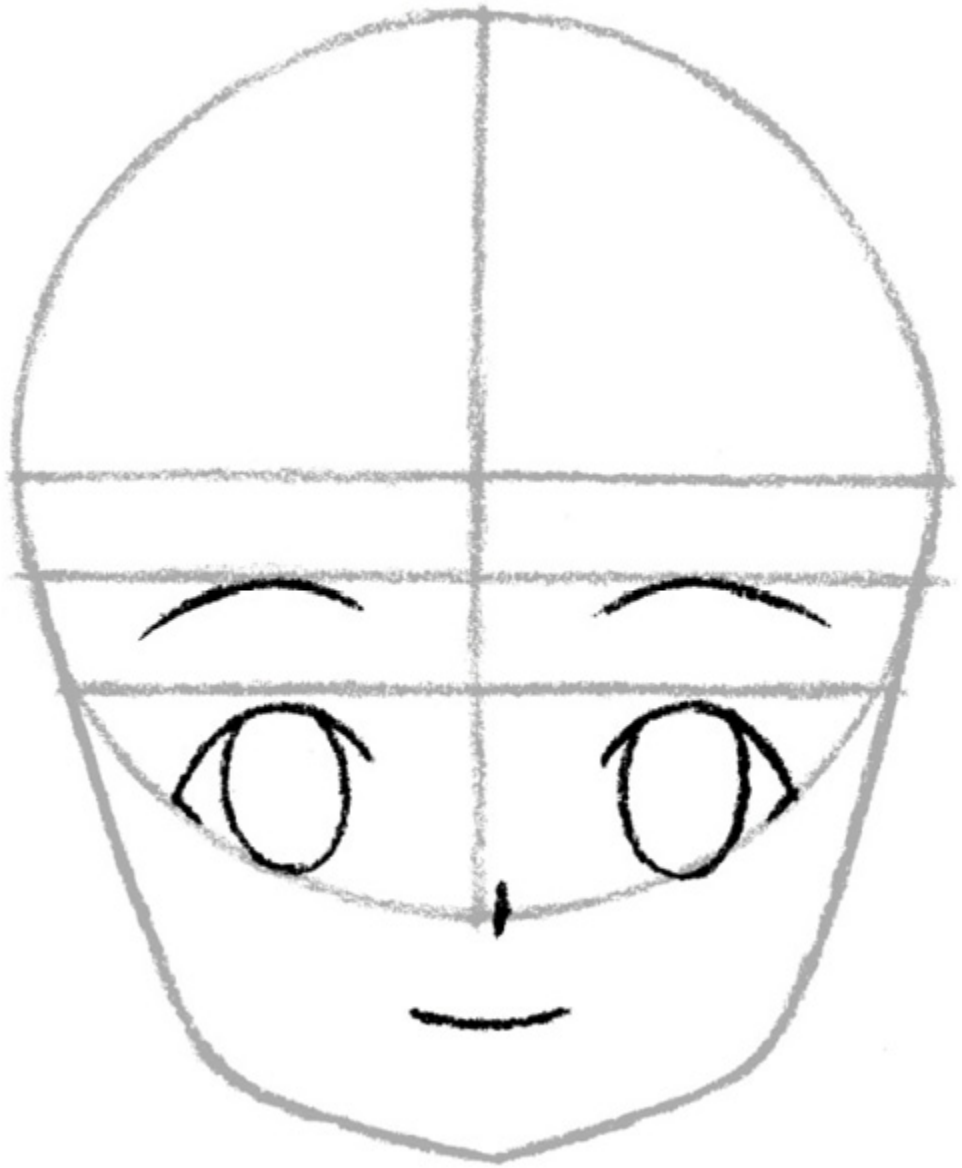


STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into three sections by adding two additional horizontal lines. The first of these two lines will be for placing the eyebrows. The second will be for the upper eyelashes.

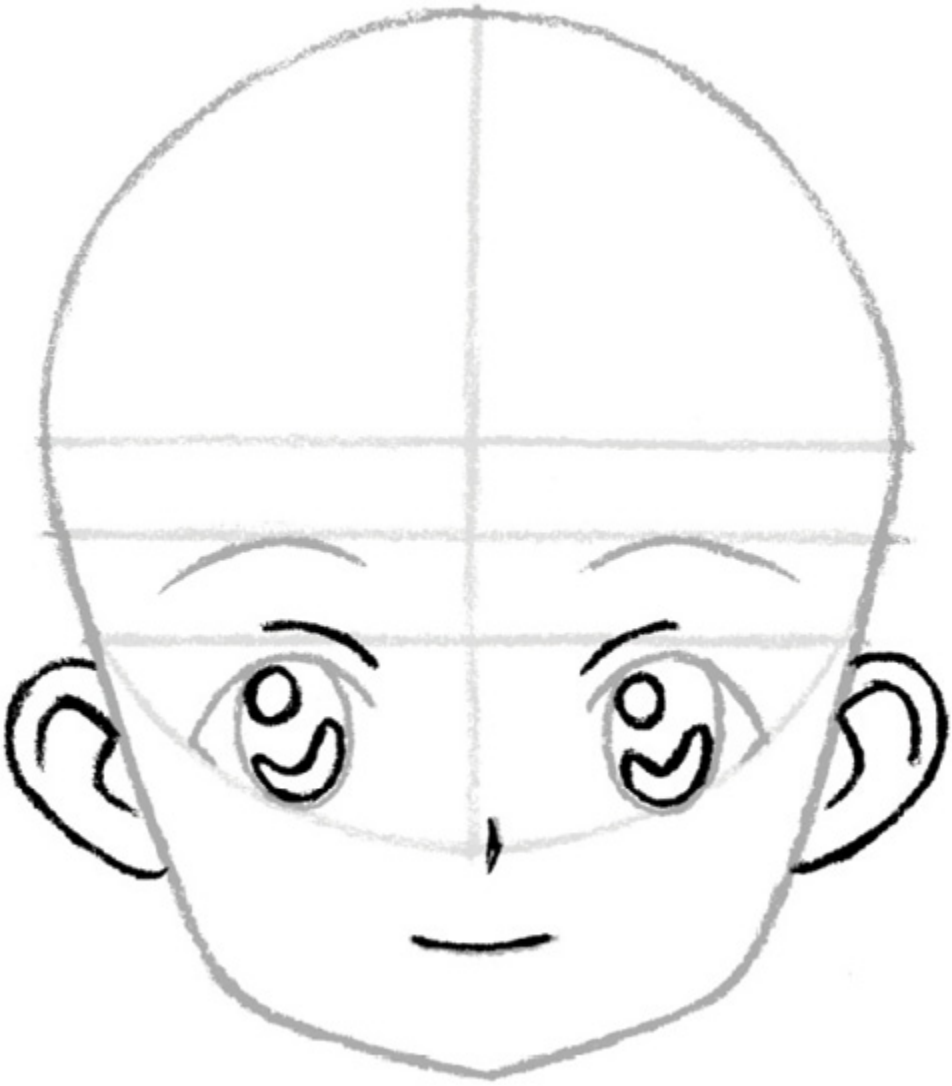


STEP 3 Outline the Jaw

This is one of the big differences between the standard teen face and a child’s face. The jaw still comes to a point, but the cheeks are squared off to create that baby-faced look. Replicate the angles on each side, connecting the jawline to the skull at the middle line.



STEP 4 Place the Features
Add the eyes, eyebrows, nose and mouth. The key difference here is the space occupied by the eyes. This tyke’s eyes are nearly twice as big. The mouth is halfway between the circle and the tip of the chin.



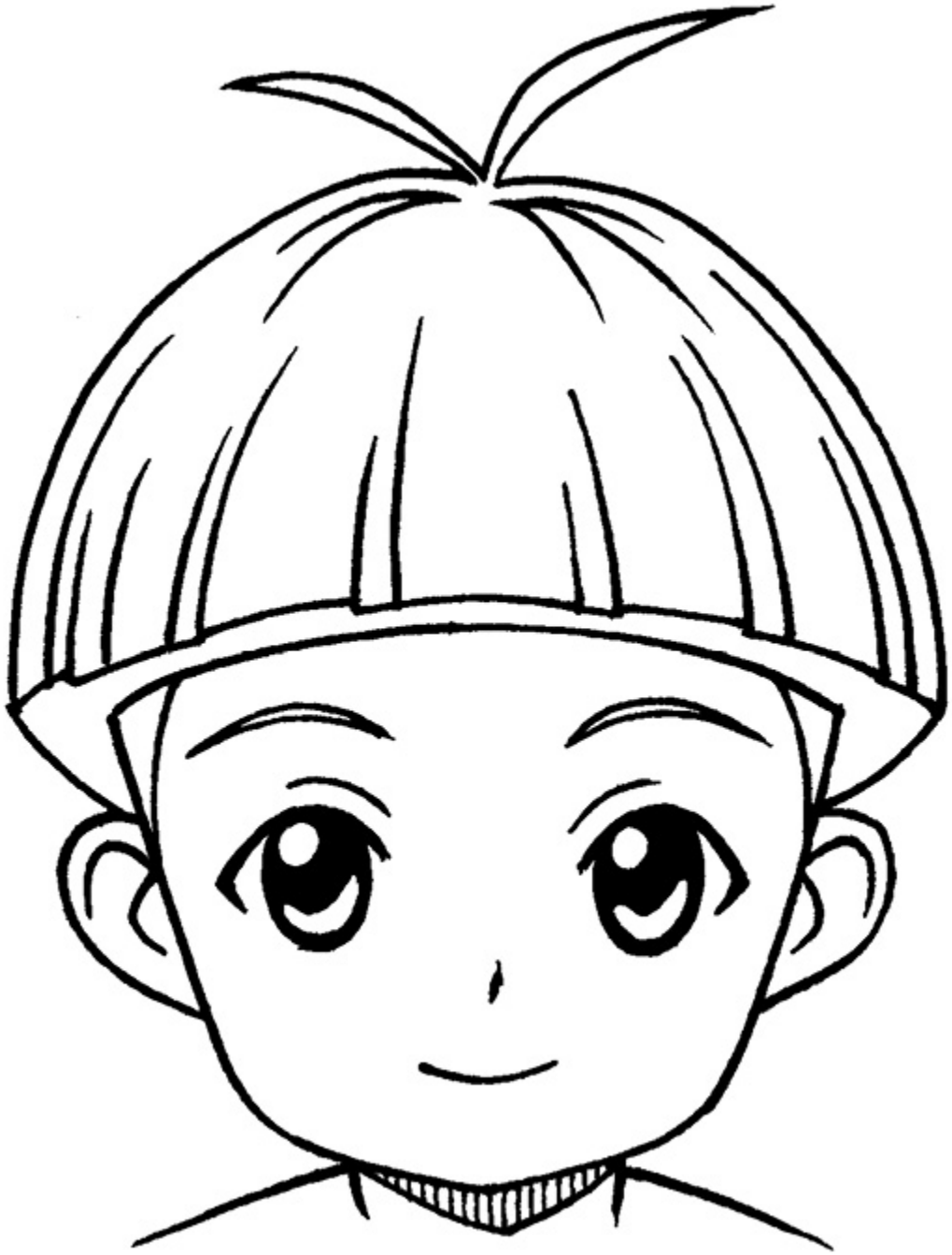
STEP 5 Add Details
Draw the ears and fill in the eyes. All of this is much the same as you’d do with a teen character, though you could experiment with making the ears a bit larger if you want to add to the cuteness of the character.

STEP 6 Form the Hair and Neck

This bowl cut is a bit on the cartoonish side. The reader will see this character as a child from a mile away, but you can give him a more natural ‘do if you’re so inclined.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune

Speaking of cartoonish, I decided to add a couple of stray hairs popping off the top of the head. Again, ignore this part if you think it’s ridiculous. (It is.) Add a little shadow beneath the chin.



STEP 8 Finish It

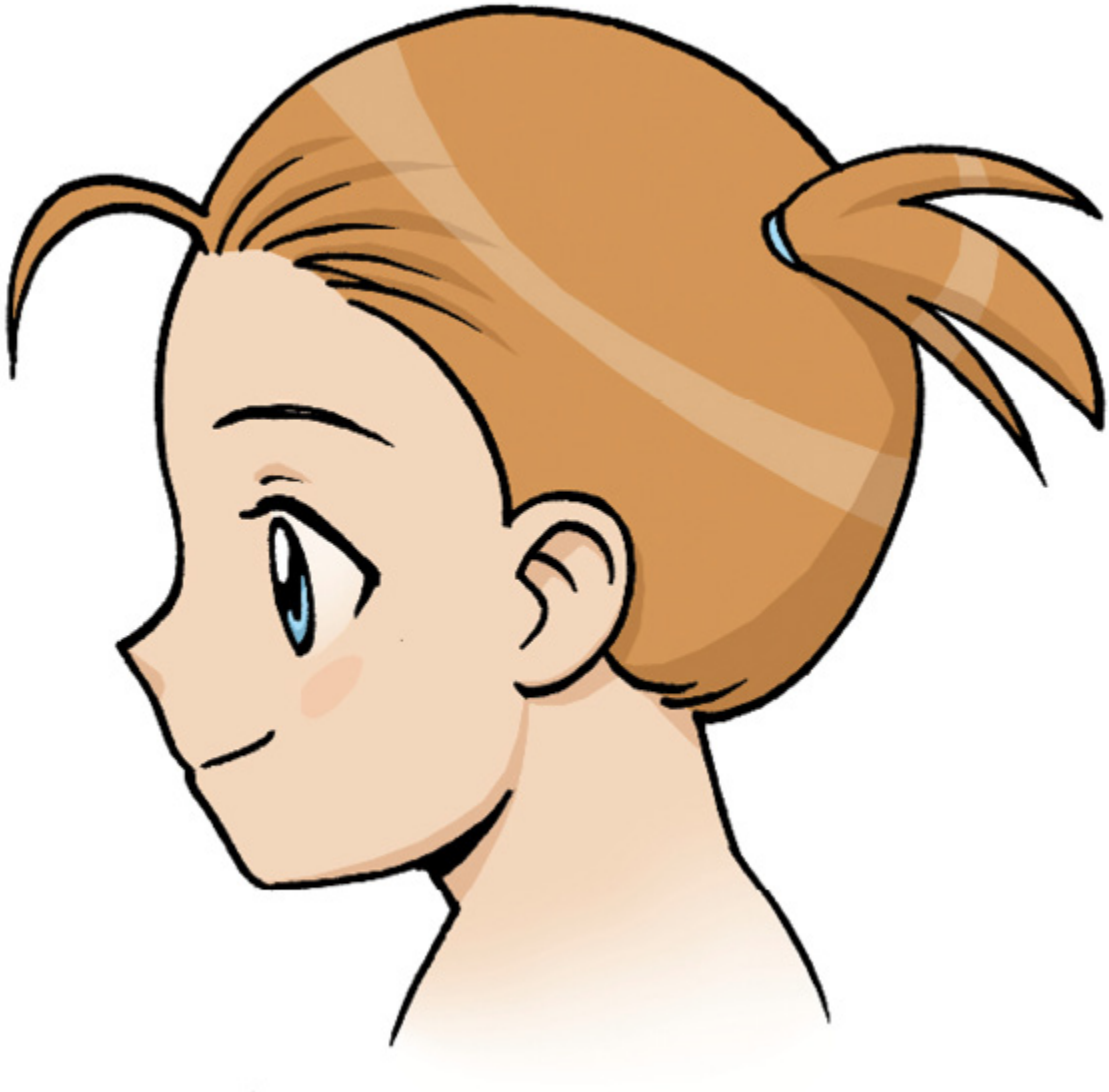
Ink the lines and let it dry, then erase the guidelines. You can keep it black and white, or add some gray tones or color.

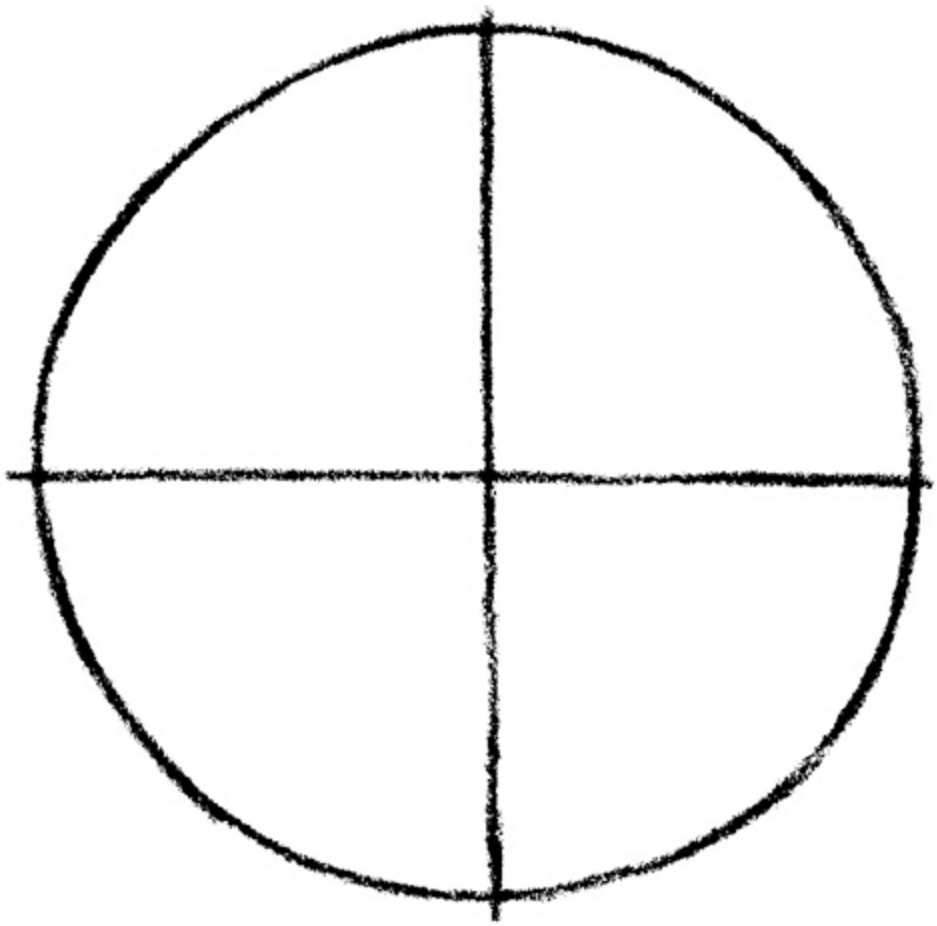
(Admit it: those stray hairs make the drawing!)

Child Profile View

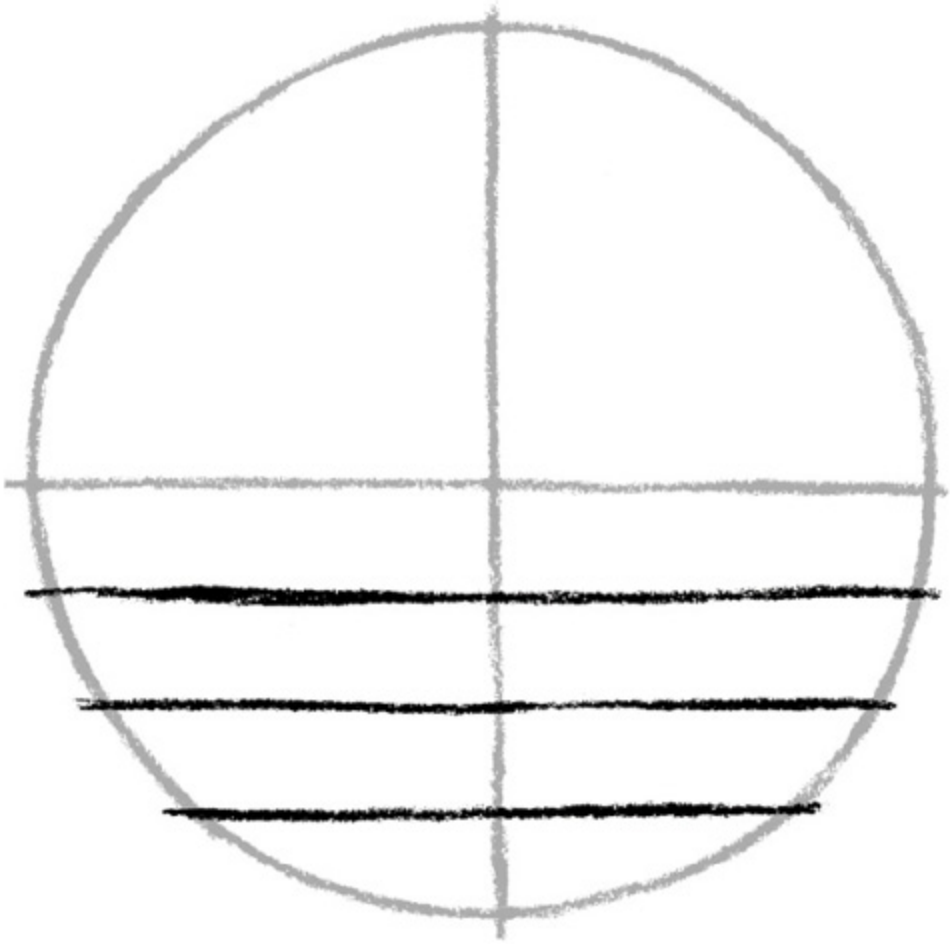
Drawing characters in profile can be tricky regardless of what kind of characters they are. Still, you'll need to draw all your characters in profile at one point or another, and the child's facial proportions make profiles a new challenge from their older siblings.

How do we get it right? How else? Guidelines!

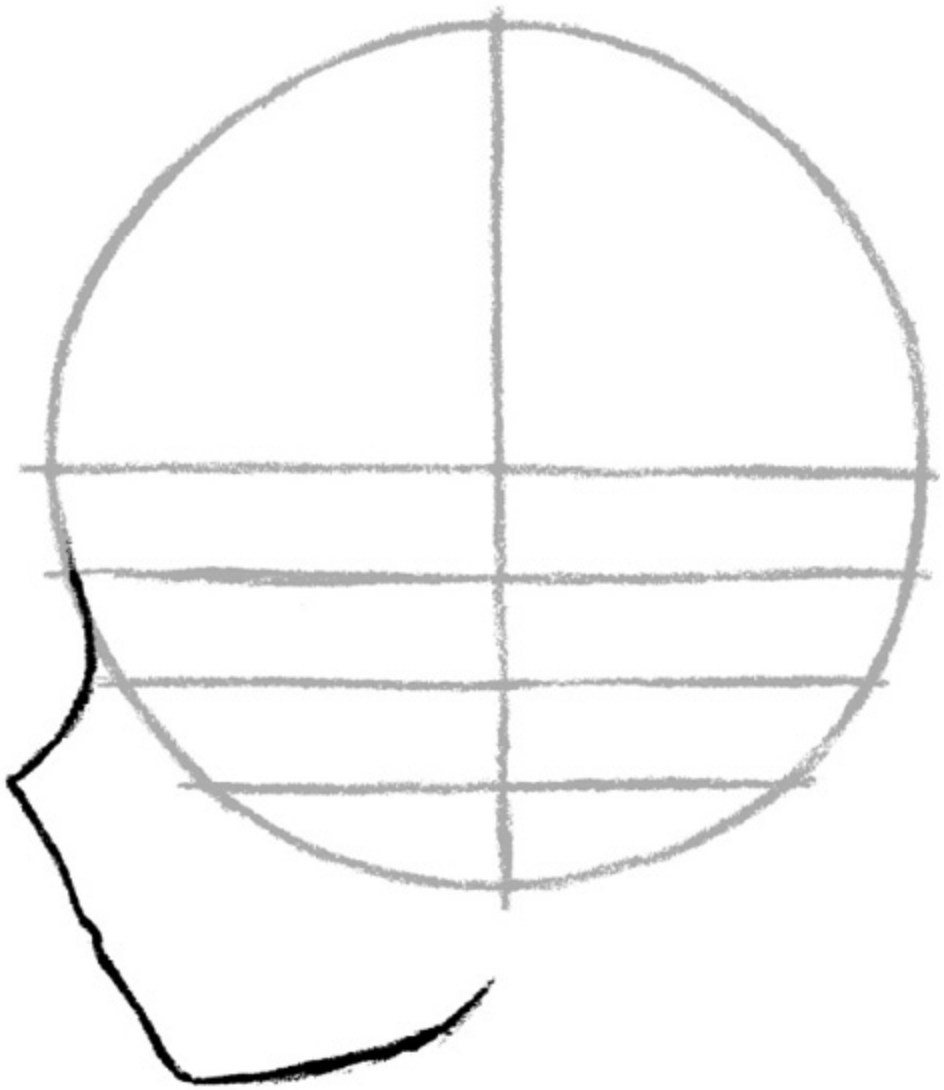




STEP 1 Draw Your Circle
Divide the circle by vertical and horizontal lines.

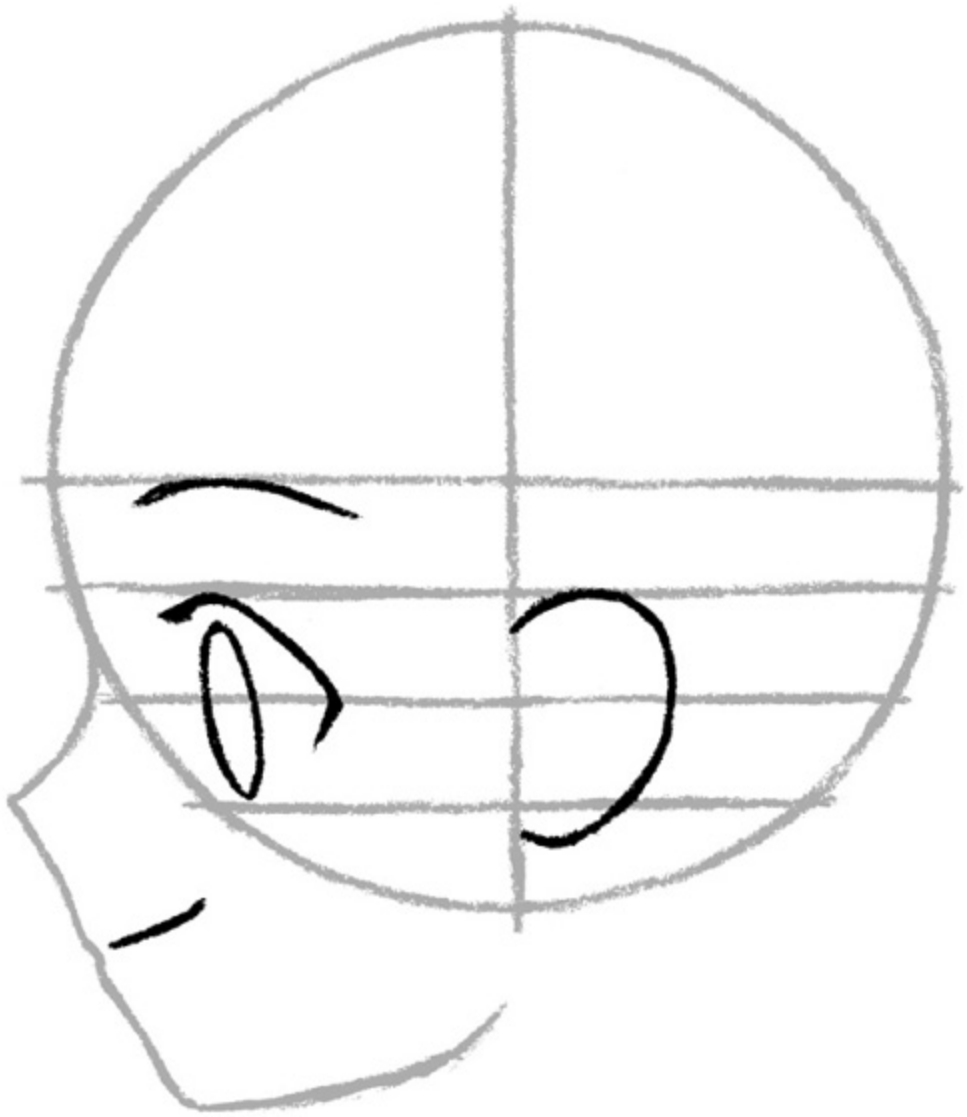


STEP 2 Mark the Feature Lines
Divide the lower half of the circle into four sections by adding three additional horizontal lines. The first line is for placing the eyebrows. The second is for the upper eyelashes of the eyes.

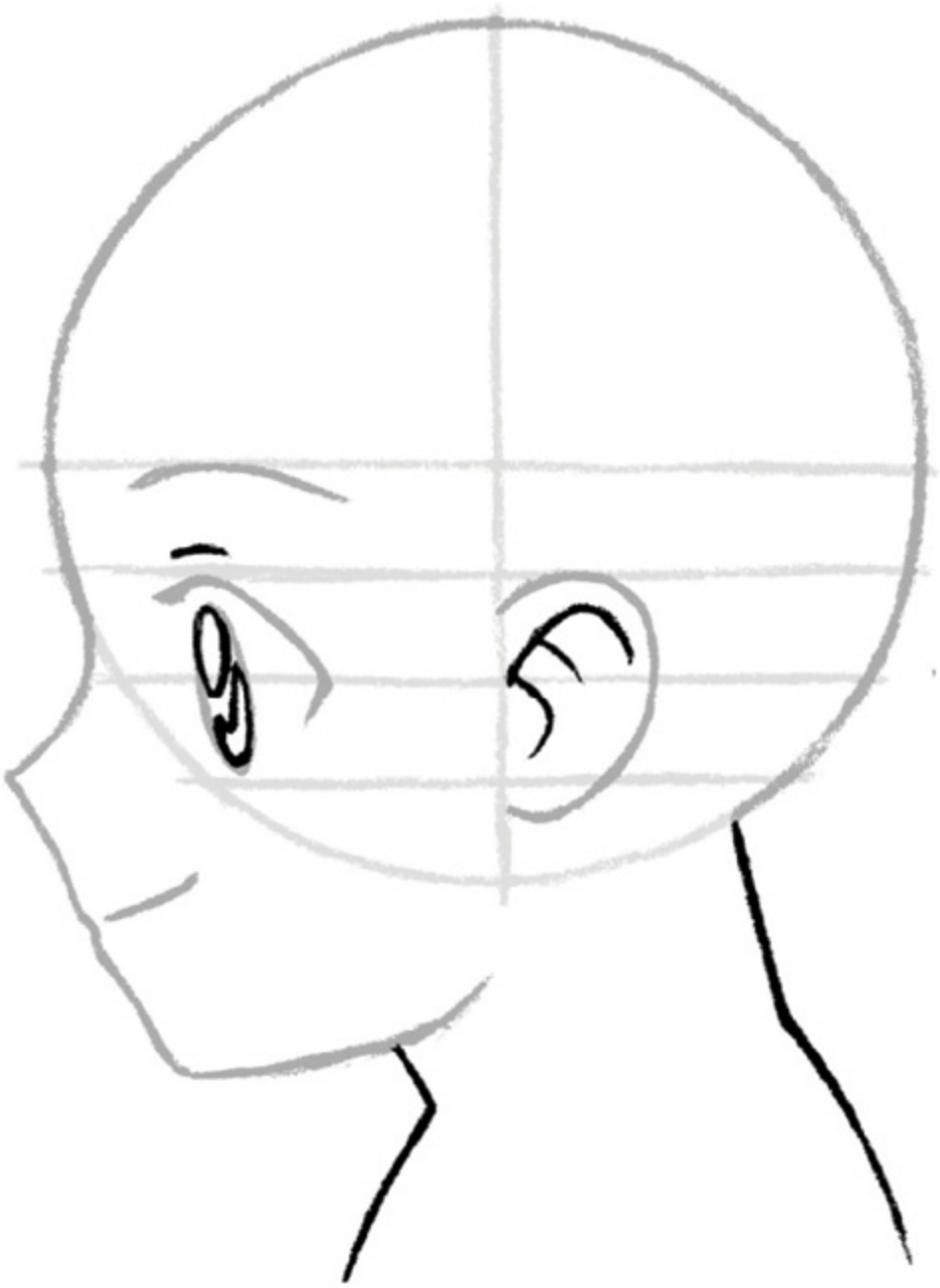


STEP 3 Outline the Jaw

Draw a line that gently curves off from the circle near the second of the four lines. It comes to a point at the nose—the same level as the bottom horizontal line. From there bring the line down at an angle. This line is equal to the space between the first and last horizontal lines. From the point of the chin the line curves back toward the bottom of the vertical line. Keep it mostly horizontal, curving up only at the tail end. Don’t let it touch the circle.



STEP 4 Place the Features
Add the eyebrow, eye, mouth and ear. The eyebrow starts roughly above the chin; don’t let it touch the circle. The mouth is halfway between the tip of the nose and chin. The ear connects at the vertical line; the top hits the second horizontal and curves just below the bottom line.

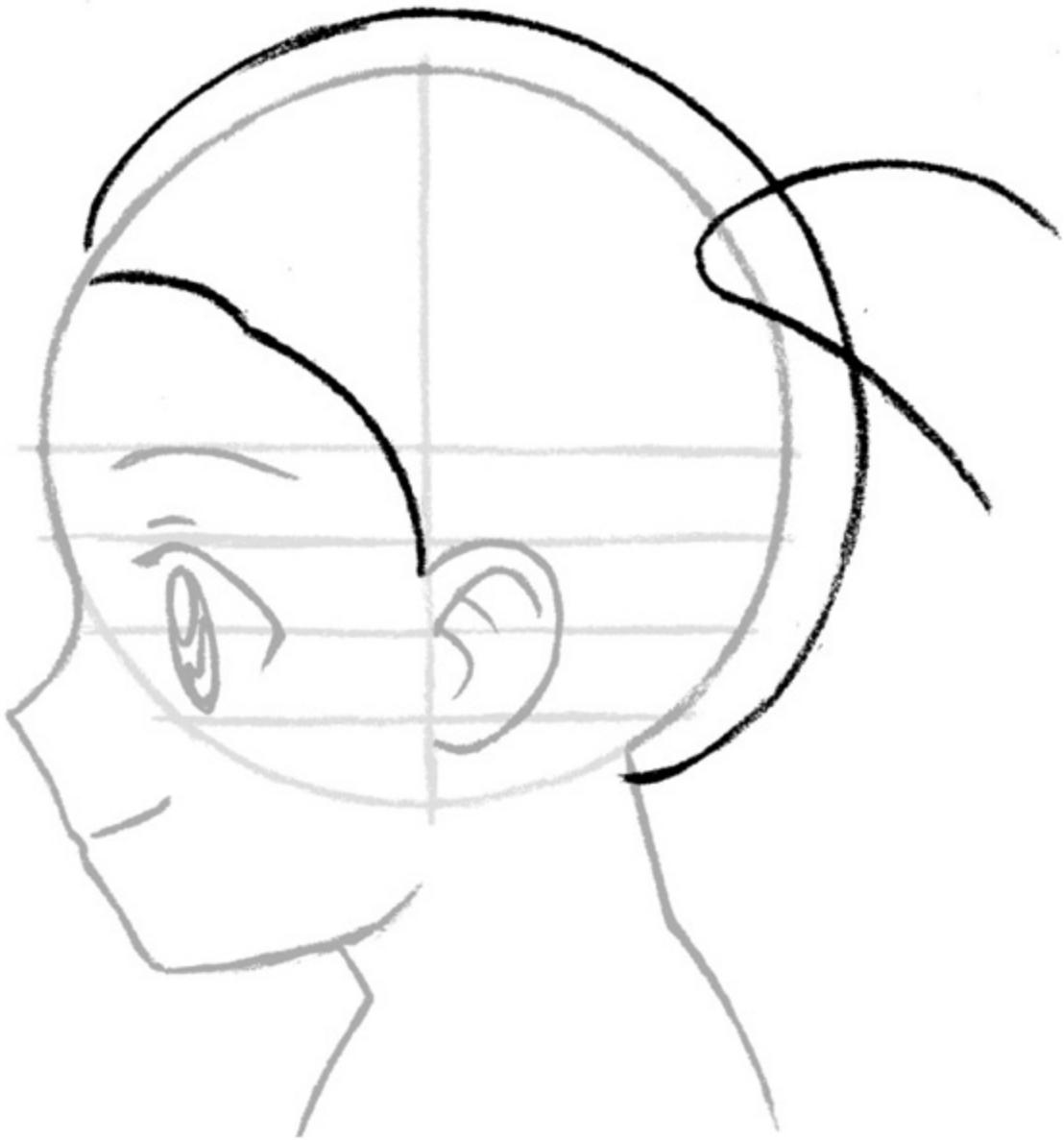


STEP 5 Add Details and Neck

Fill in the pupil and highlight to the eyes. Add curves to the ear.

Draw the lines of the neck and shoulders. The front of the neck begins about two-thirds of the way along the line of the

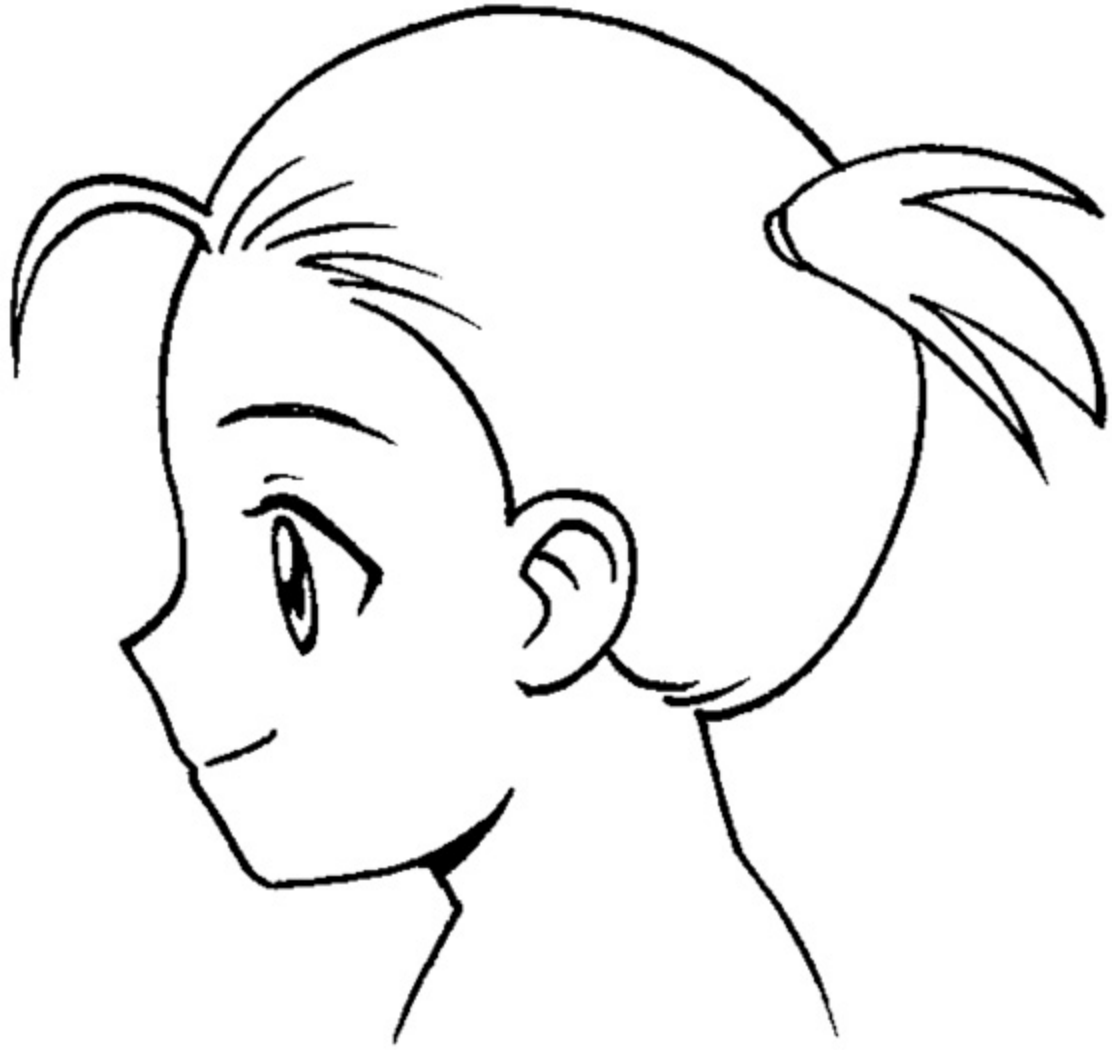
jaw. The back begins about halfway between the vertical line and the back of her head.



STEP 6 Form the Hair

It may be cliché, but pigtails are a great way to identify a female child. Of course, your teen character might want to adopt a girlish look, but placing the pigtails high on the head and making her jaw and eyes youthful will keep her little sister looking like the baby of the family.

STEP 7 Fine-Tune
Add more details to the hair—a stray hair popping off the forehead if you are so inclined (you know me, I can’t resist drawing stray hairs).



STEP 8 Finish It

Ink the lines and let it dry, then erase the guidelines. You can keep it black and white and add some gray tones or color.

101 Manga Eyes

Nothing says manga like the big, shiny eyes that the style has come to be known for. But every artist comes at it a different way. Find the styles you like, then adapt them for your own characters.

Semirealistic *Reminiscent of real human anatomy, but still recognizable as manga eyes.*

Cartoony *Typical of kids' manga, this style is fun and never takes itself too seriously.*

Highlights

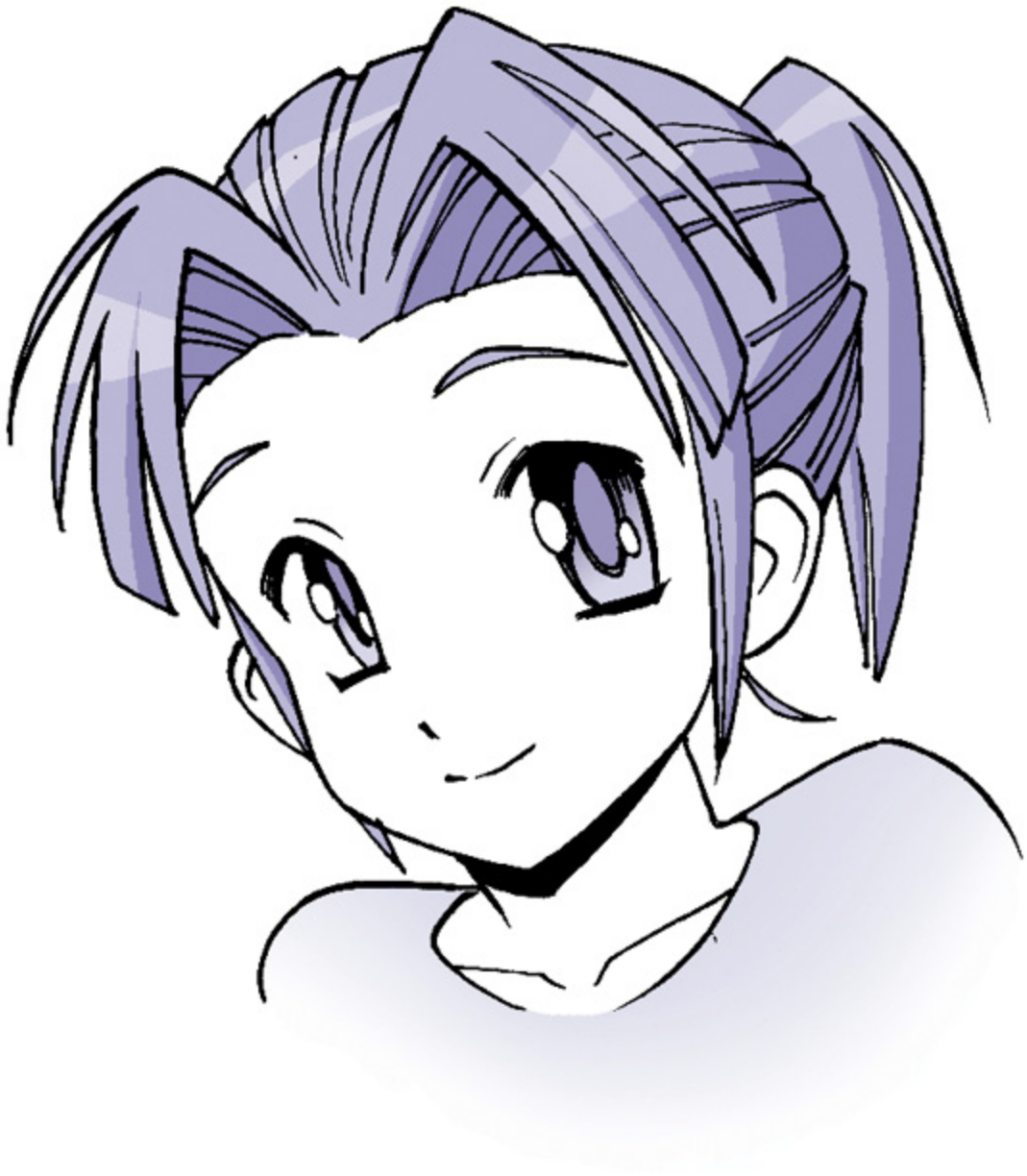
Most manga eyes include at least one highlight to create a shiny effect. It can be at the top of each iris, at the bottom or both.

Big Eyes *A mainstay of shojo romance, these eyes get so big they become a landscape unto themselves.*
Hyper-Realistic *Though rare, some manga artists do go for realism.*
No Pupils *Manga artists sometimes leave out the pupils to create an unusual, glassy effect.*

Single Highlight *The “less is more” approach can be powerful. A single white dot is all these eyes need to achieve their haunting effect.*
Tiny Irises *Sometimes artists shrink the irises down dramatically. The effect can be menacing or shifty looking.*

12 Common Manga Facial Expressions

Japanese artists have found a way of conveying emotions that is fresh, original and instantly readable to people all over the world. Here are twelve facial expressions manga artists use most.

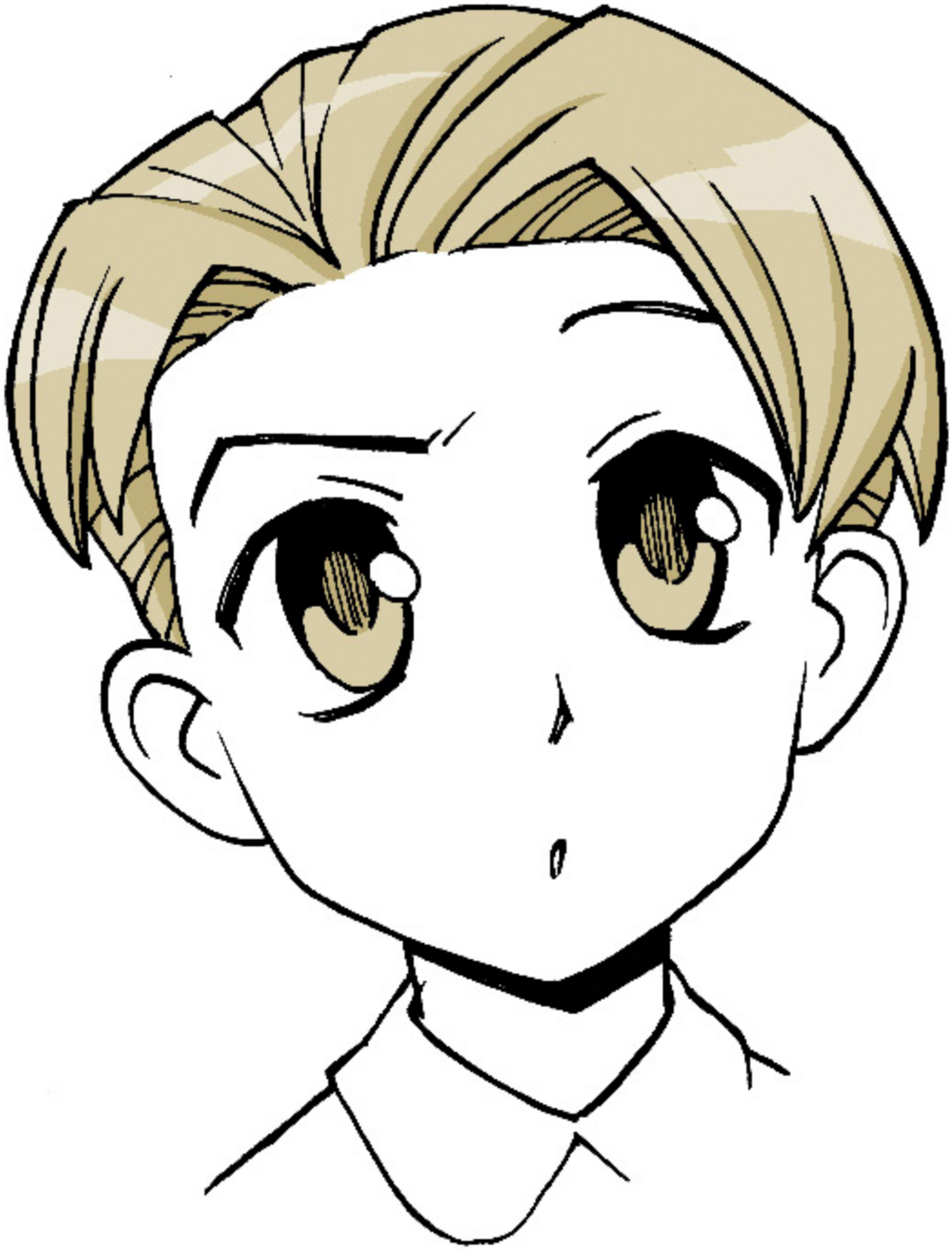


Cheerful

The default manga facial expression. The smile is subtle with a small, gentle curve. The bottoms of the eyes are often somewhat flattened, suggesting the cheeks rising to cover the eyes just a touch as the character smiles.

Ecstatic Joy

Pull this one out when simple happiness just won't cut it. The "squeezed shut" eyes are a classic form of manga shorthand for conveying big time happiness. The bottom of the mouth may be left unrendered as a stylistic quirk.

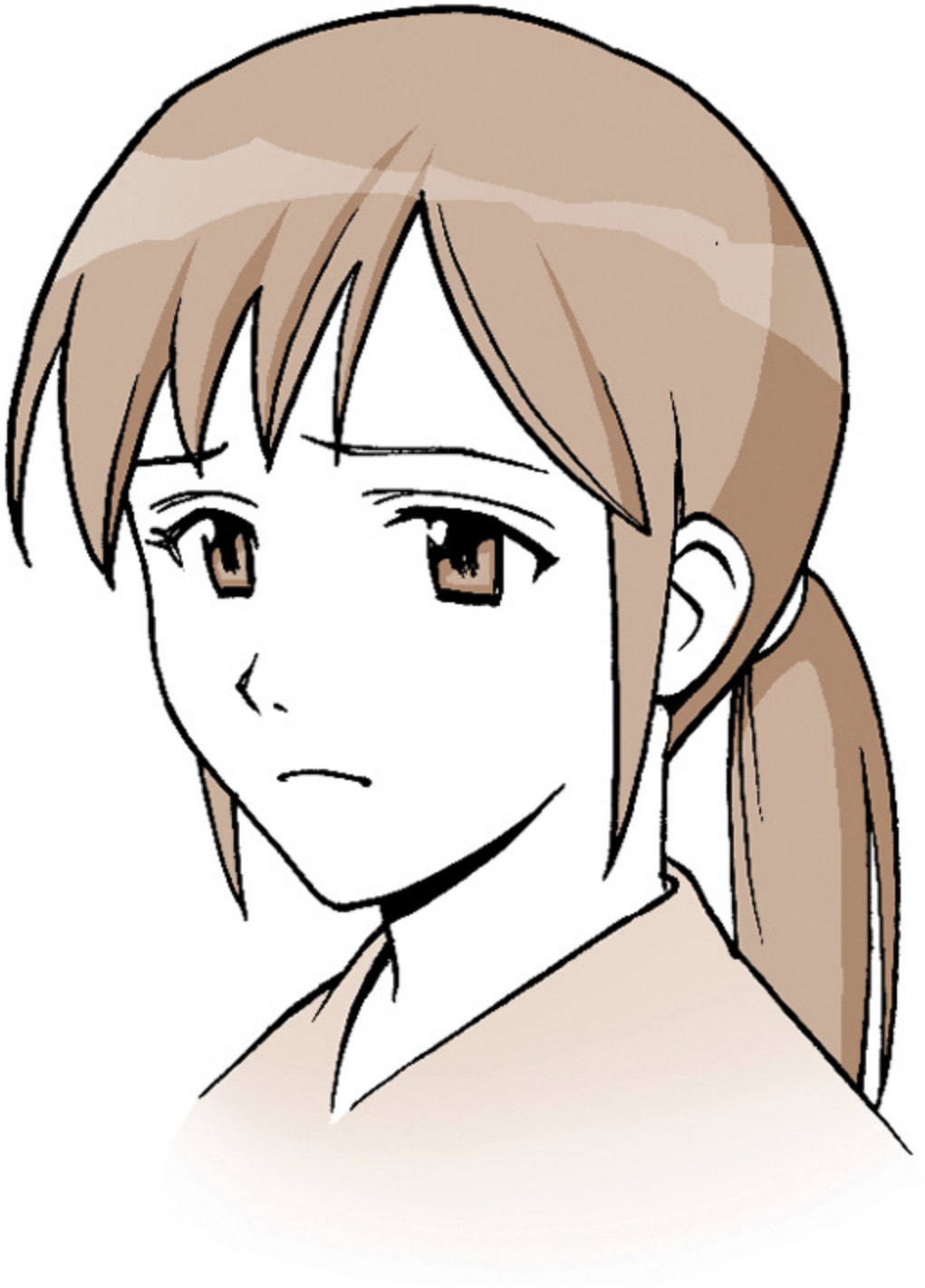


Confusion

This look of quiet befuddlement is conveyed mainly by the eyebrows. One is angled down as if slightly angry, the other raised as if surprised.

Concern

This is a great all-purpose expression to use whenever a character is serious or making an argument. The eyebrows are slightly curved, with just a hint of furrowing to the brow.



Sadness or Regret

The expression is in the eyebrows. They follow a crooked path as they curve toward the center of the forehead. The heavy eyelids and the tiny frown add to the sense of melancholy.

Boredom

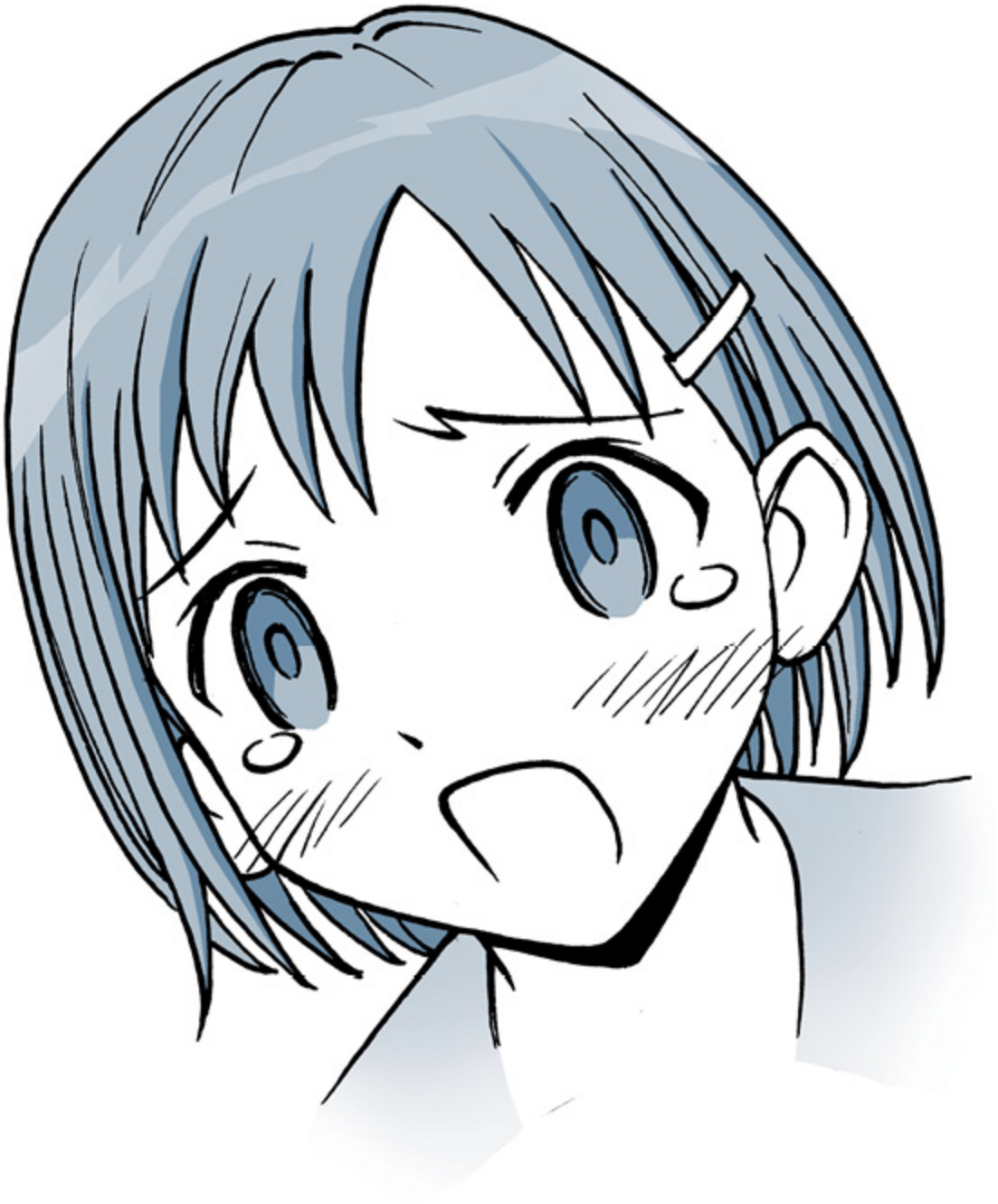
Flatten the upper eyelashes and tuck the irises at least halfway underneath. The eyebrows float above the eyes at a very neutral angle, and the mouth is small and closed.

Determination

A common emotional state in any action oriented manga. Make sure you get the angle and proximity of the eyebrows to the upper eyelashes right. The clenched teeth and the break in the line surrounding the mouth are common in manga faces.

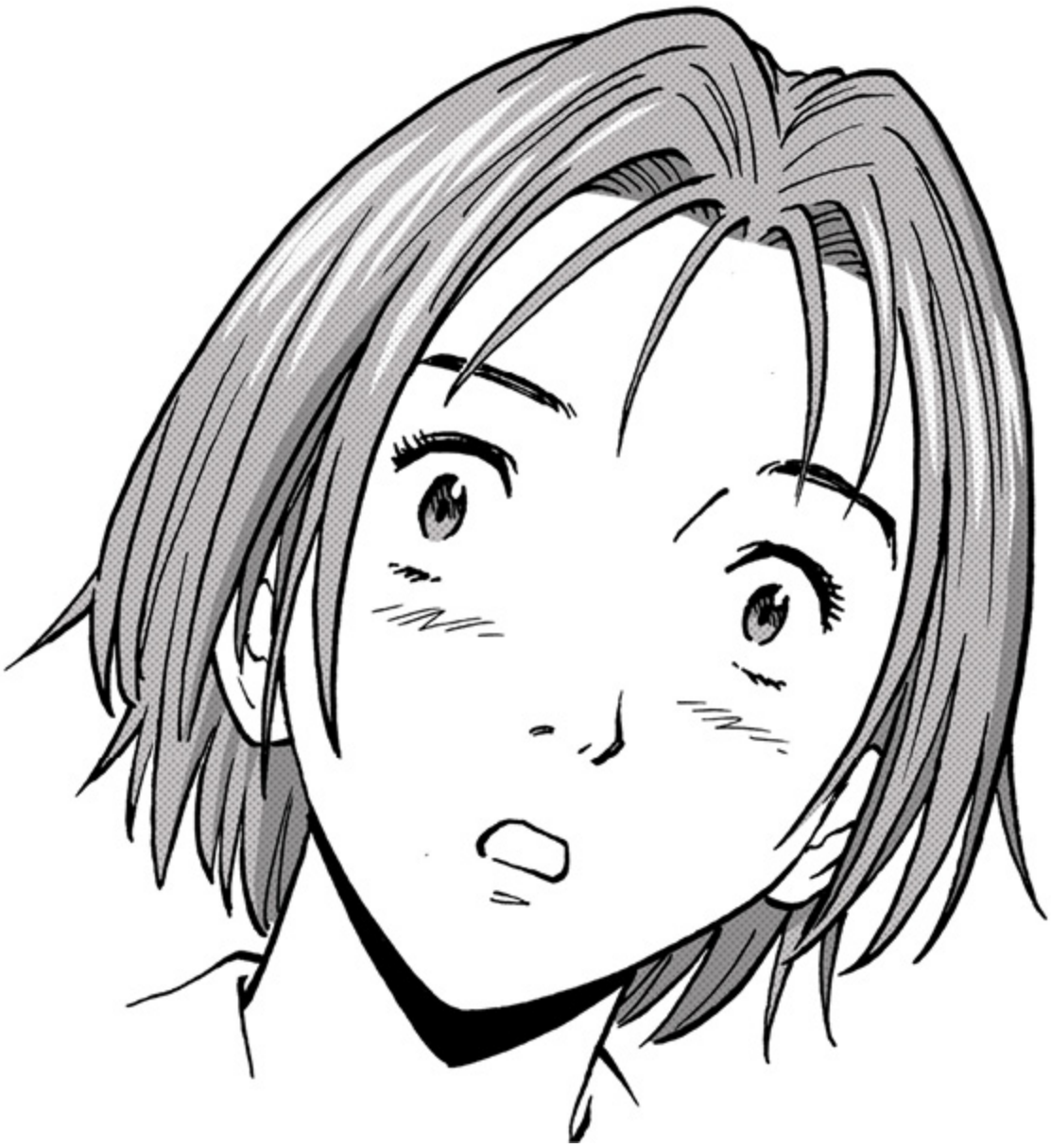
Anger

Similar to the look of determination, but with extra crooks on the ends of the eyebrows. The wide-open mouth, the bared teeth, everything comes together to convey her rage.



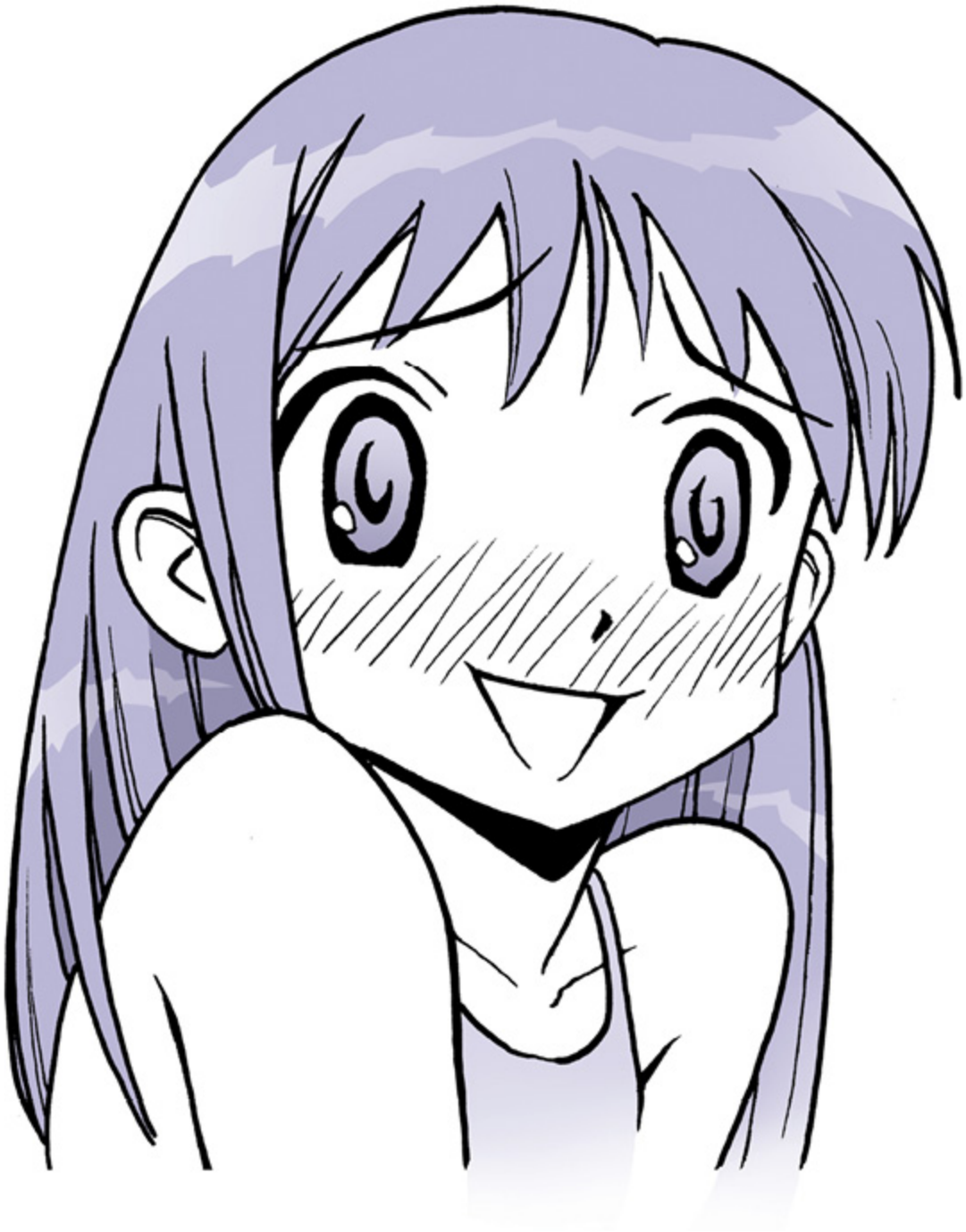
Distress

A manga staple, this look comes out at moments of crisis. The eyebrows curve upward and at least one of them ends in a zigzag, signifying a furrowed brow. The irises don’t quite touch the upper eyelids, adding to the sense of heightened emotion.



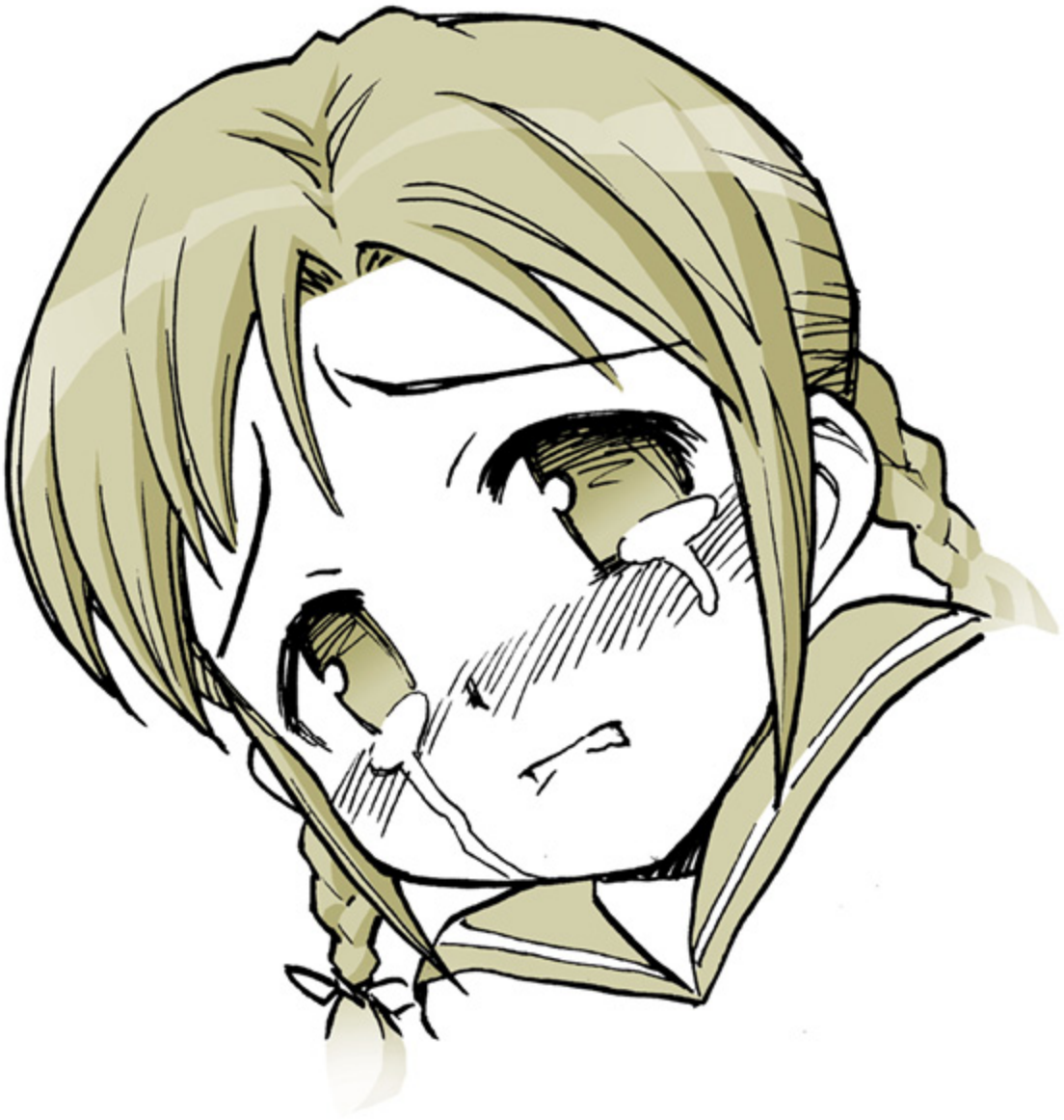
Surprise

This look is seen again and again in love stories as the character discovers new information. Note the small irises, and how they float within the whiteness of the eyes. The open, gasping mouth also adds to the effect.



Embarrassment

A great one for comedic moments: the character is caught in an awkward position and must talk her way out of it. Combine the apologetic upturned eyebrows with a big smile. Add blush, wide-open eyes, and you've got someone going very red in the face.



Sadness

Make the irises large and tuck them well beneath the upper eyelids. Don’t overdo the streaming tear. One or two are plenty. The shape of the mouth suggests a quivering lower lip.

About the Author

Mark Crilley is the author and illustrator of several graphic novel and prose fiction book series, including thirteen-time Eisner nominee Akiko, Billy Clikk, *Miki Falls* and *Brody's Ghost*. Since being selected for *Entertainment Weekly's* "It List" in 1998, Crilley has spoken at hundreds of venues throughout the world and become one of YouTube's top 25 Most Subscribed Gurus, creating drawing demonstration videos that have been viewed more than 60 million times. His work has been featured in *USA Today*, the *New York Daily News* and *Disney Adventures* magazine, as well as on Comcast On Demand and CNN Headline News.

This book is dedicated to my YouTube subscribers. This book would truly not exist if not for all of you and your many years of support.

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To convert	to	multiply by
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Centimeters	Inches	0.4
Feet	Centimeters	30.5
Centimeters	Feet	0.03
Yards	Meters	0.9
Meters	Yards	1.1

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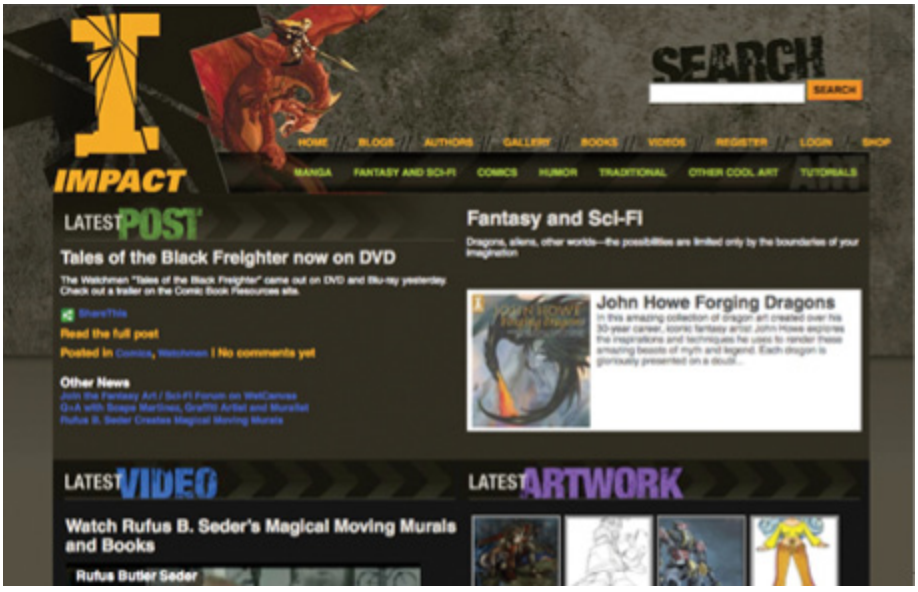

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